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It is one thing to show a man that he is in an error, and another to put him in possession of the truth.

John Locke

NCLB Waiver Winners Announced

This week, the Department of Education (DOE) [announced](#) eight more states that have qualified for “No Child Left Behind” waiver relief. Under NCLB, eleven states were granted waivers in the first round. Some lawmakers have questioned whether the department has authority to grant waivers from a law passed by Congress. Opponents of the Common Core Standards movement contend that the DOE chooses winning applications in both the NCLB waivers and the Race to the Top program based on adoption of the standards. In a conference call with reporters, Secretary Arne Duncan stated that winning applicants “absolutely do not have to adopt the common core.” All eight state recipients have adopted the Common Core Standards, and all but two previously won Race to the Top funding as well.

Arizona Passes Landmark School Choice Law

Last April, the Supreme Court ruled that Scholarship Tuition Organizations (STO) were indeed constitutional. Since individuals and corporations received a tax credit for voluntarily contributing to an STO which in turn enabled children to go to private, religious schools; opponents alleged that the state government was violating the Establishment Clause of the Constitution. In the wake of the favorable ruling, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signed a significant expansion of school choice into law. Under the new statute children of active military members, students who attend failing schools and children adopted out of the state foster care system may utilize the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program. Parents will now be able to use 90% of the state educational funding per pupil to enroll their child in the private school of their choice. The money in ESA can be used for a variety of educational purposes including tutoring and online learning. Unused money can even be used for college expenses. Approximately 11,500 military children will be eligible for the program. Previously, only special needs children could apply for the scholarships. The Heritage Foundation and the Friedman Foundation for Educational Excellence have encouraged states to follow the Arizona school choice model.

Common Core Architect Becomes President of Testing

The College Board, which governs the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), recently selected David Coleman as president of the organization. Mr. Coleman was one of the “chief architects” of the Common Core Standards (CCS) for math and reading. He has announced that one of his main priorities will be to revamp the SAT to better reflect the Common Core. The AACS opposes the CCS because over time they could become a de facto, politicized national standard which would greatly affect the autonomy of our schools.

Media Silence on Obamacare Lawsuits

The Media Research Center-a leading conservative, watchdog organization- has authored several articles highlighting the media silence about the forty-three lawsuits filed by Catholic institutions in opposition

to the Health and Human Services mandate. The mainstream media offered little coverage about the unprecedented amount of legal action by a religious group. In an article, Dr. Keith Wiebe, AACCS president, stated that "The controversy over the HHS mandate is not just a Catholic issue, but one that affects people of all faiths, including our Christian schools, as it is a direct attack on the religious liberty that is a vital part of the foundation of our country. Despite the media's deafening silence on the tremendous outcry over this issue, people of faith will not stand idly by while our religious freedoms are stripped away." To see statements by ten other conservative leaders, [click here](#).

Live Action's Latest Expose Reaffirms Need for PRENDA

On Thursday, the House of Representatives voted 246-168 not to pass H.R. 3541, Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act (PRENDA). A two-thirds majority was required for final passage. Representative Trent Franks, a leading advocate for the unborn, reintroduced this measure which would have banned abortions based on the gender of the baby. This week, Live Action, one of the fastest growing pro-life advocacy groups, [launched](#) a series of exposes that uncover the complicity of Planned Parenthood workers in the procurement and referral for violent, sex selection abortions. Although China's one child policy contributes to alarming gendercide (the deliberate and systematic extermination of baby girls, typically through sex-selective abortion and infanticide) rates, birth rate ratios indicate that gendercide is a growing problem in America as well. A [poll](#) conducted by the Charlotte Lozier Institute (the research arm of the Susan B. Anthony List) indicates that 77% of Americans favor a ban on gender selection abortions. Four states already have bans on gender based abortions.

Maryland Marriage Petition

On Wednesday the Maryland Marriage Alliance, headed by Derek McCoy, received widespread press coverage in the Beltway. His organization partnered with several other conservative organizations, such as the Family Research Council and the National Organization for Marriage, to collect and deliver over 113,000 signatures to the Maryland Secretary of State. The signatures will place same-sex marriage on the November ballot and ensure that Maryland voters are able to weigh in on this controversial issue. As the *Washington Examiner* reported Governor Martin O' Malley expended a significant amount of political capital in order to ram same-sex marriage through the legislature. Although Governor O' Malley's supporters tout polls that suggest the majority of Marylanders favor same-sex marriage, traditional marriage advocates counter that voters have rejected the redefinition of marriage every time (32) the matter has been placed before them.

In Case You Missed It:

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACCS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[Mainstream Media Ignores Obamacare Lawsuits](#)

[Education Leaders Release Shared Vision for Future Teachers](#)

[Creation Museum Celebrates Anniversary](#)

[Exxon Mobile Promotes Administration's Efforts to Nationalize Education](#)