



**The Washington Flyer
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Freedom is a need of the soul, and nothing else. It is in striving toward God that the soul strives continually after a condition of freedom. God alone is the inciter and guarantor of freedom. He is the only guarantor. External freedom is only an aspect of interior freedom. Political freedom, as the Western world has known it, is only a political reading of the Bible. Religion and freedom are indivisible. Without freedom the soul dies. Without the soul there is no justification for freedom.

Whittaker Chambers

AACS Students Give to Haiti Relief

After the tragic earthquake which devastated the country of Haiti, AACS President, Keith Wiebe, sent a letter to all AACS member schools urging them to give a love offering to help the people in Haiti. AACS students answered the call to the desperate need, and to date, a total of \$17,917.89 has been sent to Haiti relief by AACS students.

This money has been sent to CrossWorld Missions, a mission organization with missionaries located in Haiti working tirelessly to give aid. If you or your school would like to give, we are continuing to send funds each week as we receive them. Please send your contribution to AACS Haiti Relief Fund, 602 Belvoir Avenue, East Ridge, TN 37412. You can also make an online donation by clicking [here](#) and selecting "Outreach." All contributions sent to AACS for the "Haiti Relief Fund" will go in their entirety to the relief work taking place in Haiti.

The President's Budget Supports Education Agenda

Days after meeting with Republicans to discuss fiscal responsibility, President Obama introduced his new \$3.8 trillion [spending plan](#), which includes \$49.7 billion for the Department of Education's discretionary programs. According to a press release from the Department of Education, this amount is "an increase of \$3.5 billion over fiscal year 2010." In addition, "The budget also includes \$173 billion in loans, grants, tax credits and work-study programs to help students go to college."

In the State of the Union address, the President expressed his intentions of focusing on education reform, and his budget seems to indicate his agenda to bring about a new look toward school reform. As stated in the Dept. of Education press release, "President Obama's 2011 education budget signals a bold new direction for federal K-12 education policy with more competitive funding, more flexibility and a focus on the reforms likely to have the greatest impact on student success."

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan applauded the budget proposals for education, stating, "This budget sends a very clear signal to the country that this President is serious about education. There are some very innovative proposals in this budget that come from across America. We want to advance reform on a bipartisan basis." The budget not only includes a \$1.35 billion increase in "Race to the Top" funds, a program designed to make states compete for grants by increasing their standards, it also includes a \$9.3 billion increase for competitive grants issued to states who ramp up their early learning programs and initiatives.

While the “Race to the Top” initiative has bipartisan support, criticism of the program has grown after the President announced last month an increase in funds while the program has yet to spend a dime of the original \$4.35 billion already set aside. Some states have become leery of accepting federal monies. In fact, Gov. Rick Perry of Texas voiced his [opposition](#) to the program, stating, “Texas is on the right path toward improved education, and we would be foolish and irresponsible to place our children’s future in the hands of unelected bureaucrats and special interest groups thousands of miles away in Washington, virtually eliminating parents’ participation in their children’s education. If Washington were truly concerned about funding education with solutions that match local challenges, they would make the money available to states with no strings attached.” However, the President recently announced his intention to allow [local school districts](#) to compete for the funds if their states do not meet the requirements or do not wish to be involved. “This support will not only reaffirm our commitment to states engaged in serious reform, it will also expand the Race to the Top competition to include local school districts that are also committed to change,” the President explained. Still, many school districts are competing reluctantly or simply refusing to compete for the funds. Ryan Robison, Superintendent of the Sutter Union High School District in California has recommended that his district take “no action on the federal program,” saying, “This was [thrown together](#) almost more hastily than health care reform. We don’t know how it’s going to impact us.”

Another portion of the President’s proposed budget “would provide \$9.3 billion for competitive grants to states over the next 10 years to improve the quality of early learning programs and prepare students for success in kindergarten.” The Administration continues to push early education as a tool to bring about higher graduation rates and increased academic achievement. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan reiterated this point stating, “The president has [set a goal](#) that America once again will lead the world in college completion....To do that by the end of the decade, we need to improve the education at every level, from birth through the end of college. This budget puts us on a path toward success and meeting that goal.”

Along with his budget, the President is also calling for a “jobs bill” seeking another \$282 billion to be used as “temporary recovery measures” over the next three years. While the President did announce his intentions for a spending freeze on non-defense programs during his State of the Union address, many believe the action would be ineffective by the time it is to be implemented and claim that spending levels have already increased 20%. Republicans criticized the budget for increasing spending while the nation’s economic woes continue to hang in the balance. House Minority leader, Rep. John Boehner (R-OH) stated, “Just three days after talking to House Republicans about the importance of fiscal responsibility, President Obama is submitting another budget that spends too much, taxes too much and borrows too much. Filled with more reckless spending and more unsustainable debt, the president’s budget is just more of the same at a time when the American people are looking for Democrats in Washington to listen and change course.”

Fiscal conservative Democrats have also [voiced](#) concern and dissatisfaction with the proposed budget. Sen. Ben Nelson (D-NE) indicated his likely opposition to the current proposal, stating, “It’d be pretty hard for me to vote for it the way it is.” Sen. Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) also expressed a desire to bring about changes to the current proposal, acknowledging, “There’ll definitely be movements by moderate Democrats to impose fiscal responsibility. I’m not sure what form it’ll take, but we’ll start to try to cut back and also put some brakes in place as we go on.”

Senate Hearing on the Repeal of ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’

During the State of the Union address, the President reiterated his plans to repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT), a military policy that forbids open homosexuals from serving in the military. This week hearings were held in the Senate to grasp fully the impact this policy has had on the military and whether the policy should be removed. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates testified alongside Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Michael Mullen, who both fully embraced the call to repeal the policy. While they urged Congress to repeal the policy, they both noted that there was little research that had been conducted on the policy and its general impact. “Cohesiveness” and “morale” were common words among the Committee Members who sought to find a legitimate reason for repealing the policy.

Both Sec. Gates and Chairman Mullen have made clear their intentions of conducting an assessment on the impact of the policy on military and family members before the repeal is issued and have urged for at least a year to fully implement any changes Congress makes. However, despite their statements, some Senators were taken back by their written statements and personal testimonies. Sen. McCain described their statements as “clearly biased” and seemed rather irked that the two gentlemen’s testimonies did not focus on whether the policy should be repealed but rather on how they would appropriately implement any changes when it was repealed. The Senator reminded the witnesses that Congress makes the ultimate decision in whether or not the policy is repealed despite what opinions are held by the President, the Secretary of Defence, or the Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff. Sen. McCain expressed [opposition](#) to repealing the policy stating the following:

We meet this afternoon to consider the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy – a policy that the President has made clear, most recently last week in his State of the Union address, that he wants Congress to repeal. This would be a substantial and controversial change to a policy that has been successful for two decades. It would also present yet another challenge to our military at a time of already tremendous stress and strain. Our men and women in uniform are fighting two wars, guarding the frontlines against a global terrorist enemy, serving and sacrificing on battlefields far from home, and working to rebuild and reform the force after more than eight years of conflict. At this moment of immense hardship for our armed services, we should not be seeking to overturn the Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell policy.

Chairman Mullen agreed that if Congress were to repeal the policy, implementing the change would take some time and would be a challenge during a time of war. Other Senators wished that more research be conducted on the impacts of the policy and praised Sec. Gates for his willingness to perform an assessment. Though questions were asked, the majority of those present at the hearing have already developed a position on the issue and were not hesitant in declaring their opinions. A hearing is expected to occur in the House sometime in the next few weeks.

To watch the full committee hearing, please click [here](#). (Note: The portion of the hearing on DADT does not begin until nearly 120 minutes into the hearing.)

Dawn Johnson Re-nominated

Nearly a year after being voted out of the Senate Judiciary committee, Dawn Johnson, President Obama’s nominee for head of the Justice Department’s Office of Legal Council remains [unconfirmed](#). Since the move out of committee, Republicans along with a few conservative “Blue-dog Democrats” voiced opposition to the nominee and threatened a filibuster. Johnson, nominated to a key position within the Justice Department, has garnered much criticism from conservatives based on her radical views regarding abortion and national security.

As the formal legal director for the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), Johnson has made many radical comments about abortion, causing conservatives to be gravely concerned with her intentions to push a radical agenda. In a brief filed when she was a lawyer with NARAL, she stated that forcing women to bear children was “disturbingly suggestive of involuntary servitude, prohibited by the 13th Amendment, in that forced pregnancy requires a woman to provide continuous physical service to the fetus in order to further the state’s asserted interest.” She has also come under pressure for comparing pro-lifers to the Ku Klux Klan and comparing pregnancy to slavery. Johnson also has concerned many with her sympathetic views towards the treatment of terrorists.

With the election of Scott Brown from Massachusetts, however, her fate may be sealed. With Republicans and several Democrats opposing her, the nomination potentially ran out at the end of 2009, causing President Obama to re-nominate her at the beginning of the year after Sen. Specter changed his position to support her, giving supporters the needed votes. However, with Republican Scott Brown now taking a seat in the Senate, it looks as though her nomination will fail for a lack of votes. According to Committee for Justice Executive Director Curt Levey, “Scott Brown’s election means her nomination is now likely dead in the water.”

In Case You Missed It:

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

[New Study Finds that Abstinence-Only Education Does Work](#)

[Obama's Budget Contains Massive Abortion Funding](#)

[Pastors File Suit against New Hate Crimes Law](#)



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