



# THE WASHINGTON FLYER

A PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

**The Washington Flyer**  
**April 20, 2012**

*Because power corrupts, society's demands for moral authority and character increase as the importance of the position increases.*

**John Adams**

## **Race to the Top Winners Spend Slowly**

An *Education Week* article highlights an unusual phenomenon among the Race to the Top recipients. The twelve winners (11 states and the District of Columbia) are struggling [to spend](#) their share of the \$4.3 billion dollars in funding. While the lofty reform goals included in the state applications were met with optimism, reports indicate that only 14% of the money has been spent to fulfill those promises and the bulk of that money has gone to consultants. For example, Florida estimated that it would spend \$151 million in the first year but in reality spent a mere \$1.5 million. A Department of Education spokesperson cited issues with procurement and a lack of qualified individuals to implement the ambitious plans. State education officials point to the lag time between decision making and payment, lower costs than estimated, necessity for increased staffing and training programs, and provisions that require DOE approval for significant changes (those totaling \$500,000 or more).

## **Obamacare Oral Arguments and Education Implications**

As legal experts continue to examine the Supreme Court oral arguments on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), an insightful exchange between Justice Samuel Alito and the lawyers in the courtroom highlighted the entanglement that arises when an entity receives federal funding. Justice Alito [questioned](#) whether the healthcare law's mandated expansion of Medicaid would lead to an unprecedented growth of federal power that would allow the government to set overreaching requirements on the states. He noted that cash-strapped states are already forced to give large sums of money to the federal government which then offers the states a portion of the revenue back in exchange for adhering to numerous regulations and conditions. The struggling states are not in a position to refuse the money, and, therefore, they receive the funding and lose their autonomy. Furthermore, Justice Alito noted that local decision making in areas such as teacher tenure and curriculum come under the jurisdiction of the federal government. Paul Clement, one of the nation's top lawyers, agreed and noted that federalism (the division of powers between states and the federal government) was at stake in the outcome of the healthcare law case.

## **Komen Foundation Commits to Fund Abortion Clinics**

In the aftermath of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation controversy, the organization recently [announced](#) that it will award grant money to 17 Planned Parenthood (nation's largest abortion provider) affiliates this year. Earlier this year, Komen officials announced that Komen would no longer provide funding (\$680,000 in 2011) for groups that were under investigation. After three days of pressure from the media, celebrities, and donors, Komen CEO Nancy Brinker announced that the group would reinstate the funding and apologized for allegedly compromising the group's mission. The controversy highlighted the fact that Planned Parenthood clinics do not have the machines necessary to conduct cancer screenings and instead refer women to other clinics. Despite the fact that Planned Parenthood reported 1 billion dollars in assets, abortion advocates conducted a fierce campaign to pressure Komen

to amend its grant criteria to allow Planned Parenthood to receive funding once again. In a *Wall Street Journal* opinion editorial, Princeton University professor Robert P. George and University of Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture Director O. Carter Snead opined that “faced with even the tiniest depletion in the massive river of funds Planned Parenthood receives yearly, the behemoth mobilized its enormous cultural, media, financial and political apparatus to attack the Komen Foundation in the press, on TV and through social media.” According to an Alliance Defense Fund [report](#), “Planned Parenthood’s primary motivation is to take advantage of ‘overbilling’ opportunities to maximize its revenues in complex, well-funded federal and state programs that are understaffed and rely on the integrity of the provider for program compliance.” To read more about initiatives to defund Planned Parenthood at the state level, [click here](#).

### **Vanderbilt Continues Assault on Religious Freedom**

In response to the discriminatory application of student group policies at Vanderbilt University, Vanderbilt Catholic has announced that the group will move off campus in an effort to preserve their religious liberty. The university has responded by [informing](#) the group that it must choose a new name. Eleven religious student groups have written a letter to the University stating that it was “perplexing” that “a university founded by Methodists is prohibiting religious groups from selecting religious leaders while simultaneously allowing fraternities and sororities to discriminate in selecting their leaders and members. If Vanderbilt will give fraternities and sororities a broad exemption from its policy, why won’t it give religious groups a narrow exemption?” These student groups are awaiting recognition from the university for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year.

### **AACS National Competition**

Last week, the AACS National Competition was held on April 10-12 in Greenville, South Carolina. Almost 2,000 students from approximately 200 AACS schools nationwide participated in the exciting event. Students performed or submitted entries in over seventy categories in the areas of Bible, music, speech, art and academics. Throughout the week, Dr. Jason Ormiston preached a series of challenging chapel messages on major issues facing today’s teens. Bob Jones University staff graciously judged the entries and facilitated the student activities, accommodations, competitions, and the AACS Extravaganza. The action packed three-day competition culminated at the Thursday night awards ceremony in the Founder’s Memorial Auditorium. For the tenth consecutive year, Virginia (Old Dominion Association of Church Schools) won the AACS Cup of Excellence as a result of accumulating the most points of any state. Illinois, North Carolina, and Wisconsin were also among the top states. To view the complete list of this year’s winners, [click here](#). To view pictures of the event “[like](#)” the AACS Legislative Office facebook page.

### **In Case You Missed It:**

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

[What Does the Supreme Court Think About Washington’s Education Overreach?](#)

[Paganism and Witchcraft Placed Alongside Christian Studies in UK](#)

[President Seeks to Defund DC Opportunity Scholarship Program](#)