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*“From the combined and reciprocal influence of religion, liberty and learning upon the morals, manners and knowledge of individuals, of these, upon government, and of government, upon individuals, it is impossible to measure the degrees of happiness and perfection to which mankind may be raised.”*

Benjamin Rush, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, “Father of Public Education”

### **Financial Bill Poses Problems to Small Businesses and Schools**

The Senate has been working for several weeks to reign in Wall Street and pass a financial reform bill that will set our economy back on its feet. Conservative Senators, however, have been concerned that with the massive overhaul of Wall Street, main street America including small business could become subject to massive new regulations and reporting requirements. In fact, the current legislation creates a Consumer Protection Agency to oversee the regulations and monitor businesses and their conduct. Because many AACS schools are classified as small businesses, the AACS Legislative office has been following the issue and encouraging Senators to exempt private schools from these overreaching federal regulations which would affect private schools.

According to an agreement made between Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (NV) and the Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (KY) to allow an unlimited number of amendments, many Senators have been offering amendments in an effort to improve this bill. Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) has offered several amendments to relieve conservative concerns of massive regulations and financial burdens that would be placed on small business. One of these amendments “would exempt small businesses if they sell nonfinancial products, don’t securitize consumer debt and are classified within the North American Industry Classification System code’s definition of a small business.” This amendment was adopted, thereby exempting many small businesses and in turn, private schools.

While conservative concerns remain about the financial reform bill including large taxpayer bailouts, the amendments that have been passed seek to protect small businesses from overreaching federal regulations.

### **President Obama Selects his Supreme Court Nominee**

Earlier this week, President Obama announced his appointment of Elena Kagan to the United States Supreme Court. With just two years of practice as a private lawyer, Kagan has spent most of her career as Dean at Harvard Law School, with three years off to work in the Clinton White House. She currently serves as the U.S. Solicitor General, a position she has held for only one year. If confirmed as a Supreme Court Justice, the former Dean of Harvard Law School would be the first nominee in nearly 50 years to sit on the bench with no judicial experience. She would also become the third female on the nine-member court, marking the first time in history for the court to hold three females at one time.

According to Carrie Severino, the chief council and policy director for the Judicial Crisis Network, Kagan’s lack of judicial experience is cause for strong concern. In addition, Kagan “has managed...to avoid almost any personal position on politically sensitive issues.” Severino continued saying, “Obama has articulated a standard

for his judicial picks under which, in close cases, judges should be allowed to pick winners and losers based on their ‘empathy’ with the parties rather than the law.”

One of the few issues that Kagan has taken a stand on is the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy. While Dean of the Harvard Law School she banned the military from recruiting on Harvard’s campus during a time of war. Kagan’s belief was that the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy meant recruiters on campus would violate the Harvard Law School’s anti-discrimination policy. In her private capacity, she joined other law professors in unsuccessfully arguing that the Solomon amendment “designed to deny federal money to institutions that discriminate against military recruiters” did not prevent law schools from barring access to military recruiters. The Supreme Court unanimously disagreed with her position.

On other important issues such as abortion and gun control, Kagan has no public record; and it is this lack of a record which raises valid concerns in her nomination. However, according to Dr. Charmaine Yoest, President and CEO of American’s United for Life, Kagan “has strong ties to abortion-advocacy organizations and has expressed admiration for activist judges who have worked to advance social policy rather than to impartially interpret the law.” Kagan did publicly criticize the federal regulations that prohibit recipients of Title X family planning funds from counseling women on abortions.

*By Julie Goodale, AACSB intern. Julie is a graduate of AACSB school Ko’olau Baptist Academy in Kaneohe, HI, and received her B.S. in Broadcasting from Pensacola Christian College last May.*

### **Forbes Continues to Fight for Religious Inclusion**

Congressman Randy Forbes (R-VA), introduced this week a bipartisan resolution “reaffirming ‘In God We Trust’ as the official motto of the United States. In addition, the Resolution supports and encourages the public display of the national motto in all public buildings, public schools, and other government institutions.” Representative Forbes has been a strong leader in the fight to preserve our nation’s religious heritage and recently stated his reasoning on introducing the bill:

The essence of our nation is that rights belong to the individual, and that our rights are God-given and not granted by the government. The religious underpinnings of our nation are not evident merely because of the existence of a phrase ‘In God We Trust.’ Rather, the very foundation upon which our nation was built was a trust in God.

Over the past several years, there have been growing efforts to strip references to America’s religious heritage, including our national motto, from federal buildings, documents and ceremonies across the nation. But our laws and our Constitution do not require exclusion of God from matters of government and public life. This Resolution seeks to reaffirm the foundation upon which our nation was built and acknowledges that trust in God is embedded into the fabric of society and history in the United States.

Last May, Congressman Forbes also introduced House Res. 397 to affirm “the rich spiritual and religious history of our Nation’s founding and subsequent history.” The bill includes historical writings which attribute our great nation to the Founding Fathers’ faith and their inclusion of Judeo-Christian values into the establishment of our country. The bill currently sits in the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and has 79 co-sponsors.

In an effort to garner support for this bill, high school student Nick Stelzig, a senior from Rainelle Christian Academy in Rainelle, West Virginia, has organized a petition, calling all Christians to sign it in order to fight for the bill and to see that it receives a vote on the House floor. “This bill acknowledges the Christian heritage and principles this nation was founded on, and rejects, ‘in the strongest terms,’ any attempt to omit or remove such history from our nation’s public buildings or education system. Upon reading this bill, I decided that I needed to do something about it; because if the Christians don’t do something about it who will? This is where I need your help,” Nick stated in an open letter supporting the bill.

Nick currently has garnered over 1,000 signatures! If you would like more information on this bill please click [here](#). Or if you would like to sign the [petition](#), please contact [Nick Stelzig](#).

### **AACS National Legislative Conference**

The AACS Legislative Office is looking forward to the National Legislative Conference in September, when many AACS state leaders along with administrators, pastors, teachers and students will convene in Washington, D.C. to discuss current legislation that can affect our Christian schools and ministries. The conference will also provide opportunity to hear from godly Congressmen and other national leaders who have been called to protect the religious freedom of our nation. This year's theme will be "But God," taken from the 26<sup>th</sup> verse in Psalm 73, "...but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever."

Please mark your calendar for this year's National Legislative Conference (September 13-15, 2010) to participate in the discussion of important issues facing our country, Christian schools, and churches around the nation. To download a registration form, please click [here](#).

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

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

[D.C. Gay Marriage faces Appeals Court Battle](#)

[Mojave Desert Cross Stolen](#)

