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“The fundamental basis of this nation’s laws was given to Moses on the Mount. The fundamental basis of our Bill of Rights comes from the teachings we get from Exodus and St. Matthew, from Isaiah and St. Paul. I don’t think we emphasize that enough these days. If we don’t have a proper moral background, we will finally end up with a totalitarian government which does not believe in the rights of anybody except the State!”

President Harry S. Truman

Investigation Finds Fraud Prevalent at Head Start Centers

Congress held a [hearing](#) this week on the recent report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), which revealed multiple accounts of Head Start centers across the nation being linked to fraud. Head Start is a government-run early education program designed specifically for children of low-income families. Head Start began in 1965 and has been headed by the office of Health and Human Services in partnership with the Department of Education. Head Start is often touted as an example to expand public early-childhood learning centers across the nation.

The GAO testified before Congress this week reporting on an undercover investigation to determine whether the centers were complying with federal law. Of the 15 centers investigated, eight “fraudulently misrepresented financial information from applicants.” In many of the cases, administrators of the centers encouraged families to lie about their personal income in order to meet the “low-income” status and have their child accepted into the program, resulting in long waiting lists for families who legally met the requirements. Rep. George Miller (D-CA), chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, conducted the hearing on the investigation and immediately sent a letter to HHS Secretary Sebelius and [urged](#) her to take action.

I have learned of an undercover investigation and upcoming report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) that has found reportedly unlawful actions by local Head Start grantees regarding their admissions and eligibility practices. These allegations raise significant concerns about the integrity of the admissions and family eligibility process administered by Head Start grantees. This issue requires your immediate attention and action.

Rep. John Kline (R-MN) also released a statement expressing [concern](#) over the methods used by the centers and the waste of taxpayer monies.

Falsifying income levels and collecting taxpayer funds based on children who were never actually enrolled undermines the most basic purpose of the Head Start program, which is to provide early childhood services for vulnerable children and families. This program will consume more than \$9 billion in taxpayer funds this year with the goal of closing readiness gaps and giving low-income children a head start before enrolling in school. Without assurances these funds are reaching the children they are intended to serve, the credibility of the program is, unfortunately, severely undermined.

In January a different report was released that showed [little](#) academic improvement by students who had participated in the early-learning program. HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius released a statement [defending](#) the program's abilities to produce results. She explained, "Head Start is a key part of the Obama Administration's strategic focus on early learning. The program provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition and social services to low income children and families. Still, for Head Start to achieve its full potential, we must improve its quality and promote high standards across all early childhood programs."

Supreme Court Cites Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Supreme Court on Monday [ruled](#) that it is unconstitutional to sentence juvenile offenders to life in prison with no chance for parole for crimes that do not involve murder. The ruling came in the case *Graham vs. Florida* where 16-year-old Terrance Graham pled guilty to taking part in an armed robbery of a barbeque restaurant, and a year later was arrested for a home-invasion robbery. To support their constitutional interpretation, the Court cited the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other international law which the U.S. has not yet ratified.

Chief Justice Roberts concurred with the ruling, yet dissented on the aspect of citing international law, thereby resulting in differing reports of a vote of 6-3 and 5-4. The Justices said that they agreed with international critics who say the United States is out of step when it comes to treatment of juveniles. Justice Thomas [believed](#) the punishment is not "unusual" under the Eighth Amendment arguing that 37 states currently have it on the books.

This ruling strikes down the laws for Florida and the 37 other states and is the second in recent years to expand the constitutional protection for juveniles. Conservatives in Congress do not agree, saying that the interpretation of the Constitution should be unaffected by foreign views. Michael Farris, president of Home School Legal Defense and [ParentalRights.org](#), filed a brief on behalf of 16 Members of Congress. He argued, "It is bad enough for the Supreme Court to engage in judicial activism. It is far worse when the justices employ international law in support of their far-reaching edicts. There is simply no place for international law or practice in interpreting the American Constitution. International law has its place in deciding truly international cases--but a case involving juvenile offenders in Florida is a domestic case through and through. It was plainly gratuitous for the majority to employ international law in this context."

In response to the Supreme Court's ruling, Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) introduced S.R. 519, a resolution opposing the ratification of the CRC in an effort to discourage the State Department and the Obama Administration from submitting the CRC to the Senate for a vote. Only 34 co-sponsors are needed to prevent that vote and to end the push for ratification of the CRC treaty in the immediate future. Farris supported the resolution stating, "S.R. 519 seeks to put the Senate of the United States on record that American law and only American law should govern our families and our juvenile courts."

Sen. DeMint is also the lead sponsor in the Senate for the Parental Rights Amendment. The proposed constitutional amendment would confirm the fundamental, God-given right of parents to raise their children as they choose. Sen. DeMint believes the best way to win the battle over international law when it comes to children's rights is to amend the Constitution. He has stated, "We want to see the CRC taken off the table for this Congress, and this resolution will do that. But I am also aware that the only permanent solution to this threat to our families is a parental rights amendment to the Constitution."

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

ACTION: Please call your Senators and urge them to support parental rights and our Constitution by becoming a co-sponsor of S.R. 519. Contact information can be obtained at www.senate.gov.

War Rages over Textbooks in Texas

This week the Texas Board of Education will vote on the [final changes](#) made to the social studies curriculum which will be taught in millions of schools around the country. Texas and California have become the standard for textbook content nationwide. About every 10 years, the state of Texas revises the curriculum, and the new edition is sent to the publishers to be distributed widely across the nation's classrooms. This year, the decision over the changes has been charged with controversy as conservative and liberal board members have disagreed about the content of the history curriculum. The 15-member board is comprised by a majority of republicans and self-identified conservatives who say the changes that they made were done in an attempt to balance out a liberal bias that has overcome the public school curriculum. They claim this liberal bias most clearly can be seen where "words like 'man' and 'mankind' have been stricken, 'Founding Fathers' has been replaced by 'Framers' and 'Founders' and racial quotas are applied to the number of photos used in any one book." Further changes have been made that would allow students to read the founding documents including the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. While there is much support for these changes, critics charge that the changes "whitewash" U.S. history and "downplay the role of African-Americans, Latinos and women."

The changes to the textbooks have gone through a [series](#) of drafts and votes. Revisions were first made to the textbooks by a committee of educators and community members. However, the board was not satisfied with the revisions and made additional changes to balance out the left-leaning textbooks. The board then voted 10-5 to adopt the changes made to the books last March. Since that time, a reviewing period has taken place allowing members of the community to voice their support or concern. Over 200 individuals' comments have been submitted and heard, and the board will make a final vote at the end of this week.

New Developments on Supreme Court Nominee Elena Kagan

As the Senate prepares to hold hearings on the nomination of Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court, information revealing Kagan's background and judicial philosophy continue to cause concern. Frank J Gaffney Jr., President of the [Center for Security Policy](#) and host of "Secure Freedom Radio," points out that her activity regarding recruiters at the Harvard Law School shows her to be anti-military. In a recent article, he writes that at the same time Kagan was busy pushing the military recruiters off the Harvard Law School campus during her tenure as its dean she was also [very supportive](#) of having "what amounted to Saudi recruiters ensconced there for the purpose of enlisting some of the nation's finest young lawyers to work for the industry know as Shariah-Compliant Finance (SCF). The SCF is a creation of the Muslim Brotherhood dating to the 1940's as a means of legitimating and advancing Shariah's stated objective: this barbaric, totalitarian doctrine's domination of the Muslim community world-wide and, ultimately, all non Muslin populations, as well." In addition, as dean, Kagan undertook the effort to update and revise the law school curriculum. This update included the removal of Constitutional Law and the addition of International Law in the curriculum. On the Harvard law school [website](#), Kagan said, "This marks a major step forward in our efforts to develop a law school curriculum for the 21st century."

Kagan's answers to the Judiciary Committee Questionnaire, along with her Princeton and Oxford theses, are now available for [public viewing](#). According to an article by Carrie Severino, "[The Wise Oxford Woman](#)," "Kagan opens her piece asking why judges should adhere to 'traditional standards of judicial method,'" and she continues later on in the piece, "As men and as participants in American life, judges will have opinions, prejudices, values. Perhaps more important, judges will have goals. And because this is so, judges will often try to mold and steer the law in order to promote certain ethical values and achieve certain social ends. Such activity is not necessarily wrong or invalid. The law, after all, is a human instrument--an instrument designed to meet men's needs."

By Julie Goodale, AACCS intern.

In Case You Missed It:

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

[Gallup Reports More Americans "Pro-Life" Second Year in a Row](#)



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