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"The Patriot who feels himself in the service of God, who acknowledges Him in all his ways, has the promise of Almighty direction, and will find His Word in his greatest darkness, 'a lantern to his feet and a lamp unto his paths.' He will therefore seek to establish for his country in the eyes of the world, such a character as shall make her not unworthy of the name of a Christian nation...."

Francis Scott Key, 1812

"Emergency" Teacher Bailout

Despite desperate calls from everyday Americans to cut spending and stop the bailouts, Congress, with full support from the President, is looking to bailout teachers around the nation in what many conservatives are labeling as another union bailout. The President has urged Congress to pass the "[Keep our Educator's Working Act](#)," which [critics](#) are calling a "blatant payoff to state bureaucracies and the public-employee unions that own them." In fact, according to [School Reform News](#), a publication of the Heartland Institute, author Ben Boychuk writes, "the word 'educators' in the bill's title is instructive. The bill does not require the money be spent on teachers, much less address the problem of 'last-hired, first-fired,' which puts seniority over quality."

Though states have received billions in funds through the stimulus package passed last year, the President and Secretary of Education have stated the \$23 billion in "emergency" funds is needed so students do not lose their "favorite teachers." Others, however, feel that the "too big to fail" mentality has gone too far and argue the bill "proves yet again how 'one-time' spending becomes the new baseline budget."

Department of Education Hosts Webinar on Early Learning

The Department of Education (DOE) hosted a webinar this week entitled "Building Connections to Support Literacy: Systems of Early Learning for Children Birth to Age 8. The panelists on this webinar discussed the importance of encouraging learning and early development from birth and the effects that this early development has on a child's later years. This webinar served as a pre-cursor to the three-day "[2010 Reading Institute](#)" which will be hosted by the DOE and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in July.

Throughout the webinar, the panelists emphasized the importance of interaction between infants and toddlers and their childcare workers. It was stressed that this interaction is essential in preparing children for school. According to the panelists, there are many children growing up in homes where neither of the parents are well-educated; therefore, the strong relationship between the child-care worker and the child is necessary. In order to promote this relationship, regulations and standards are put in place by the federal and state governments.

One panelist, Dr. Ross Thompson, a psychology professor at UC Davis, pointed out that a federally mandated early childhood development program has the potential to either encourage or impair the child's learning. However, he also argued that the benefit it provides to the child outweighs any of the harms. Dr. Thompson addressed the gaps between children, mainly the gap in vocabulary growth between children of different socio-economic statuses. The vocabulary growth of children living in a higher income family is greater than that of a

child of a lower income earning family. Therefore, Dr. Thompson said relational experiences between the child and child-care worker is necessary to aid vocabulary growth. For example, storybook reading to children from birth to three years and other literacy experiences (i.e., rhyming) are key to the vocabulary growth of a child, especially those children who come from a lower income background. He further argued that relational experiences contribute to the “non-cognitive” skills needed for early literacy, such as self-confidence, curiosity, and motivation. Through these claims Dr. Thompson concluded that a high quality early learning environment mandated by the federal government is superior to a high quality learning environment at an older age.

Dr. Carolyn Stevens addressed the quality of childcare that the Department of Defense provides for military families overseas. She proposed using this same model to provide a framework for standards that would be used in the U.S. Basically, this framework leaves the childcare worker ultimately responsible for the child’s development. Dr. Stevens says that these standards will support literacy through “engaging parents.” This means that there will be informal and one-time events at the childcare facility for the parents to attend and be a part of a parental advisory board. However, the main social interaction is not with parents and their children; it is with the children and the childcare worker.

Core elements of this program include regulations set by the federal government that establish minimum standards and track performance. This “sets a floor of quality.” However, establishing standards in this way not only takes the power away from the local and state educators to set situation specific standards, but it also infringes on the standards already set in place by many states. Another core element is the necessity of sufficient funds to “assure comprehensive quality services based on the standards.” These finances would be coming from the federal government which again takes away power that should be in the hands of the states.

As discussions on early education have been underway for several months at the DOE and HHS, the AACS Legislative Office has expressed concerns to the DOE on the dangers of a federally mandated early education program. Maureen Wiebe, AACS Legislative Director, made public comments at the DOE during a recent “listening tour” and articulated the need for parents to be completely involved in their child’s education. She stated, “Without question, quality parenting is the best predictor of a child’s future success and development emotionally, socially, physically, and intellectually. Any early education that a child receives beyond the home can serve to enhance a child’s experiences but should never supplant the parents’ role in providing the education and direction for these young children.”

By Hilary Ranieri, AACS intern. A graduate of AACS school Bob Jones Academy in Greenville, SC. Hilary is currently a student at Bob Jones University, majoring in Political Science.

Report: Planned Parenthood Recipient of Millions of Federal Funds

This week the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) [released](#) a [report](#) that outlined the federal funds given to pro-abortion groups which include Advocates for Youth, the Guttmacher Institute, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), the Population Council, and the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SEICUS). The report responded to requests made by 31 Congressmen and Senators regarding the amount of federal funds given to these groups from 2002-2009. Nearly \$2 billion federal monies have been given in a 15 year period to promote family planning, HIV prevention, and research. While no money can legally go toward the funding of abortions, these groups adamantly support abortion and a radical sex-education agenda.

In fact, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the nation’s largest abortion provider, is also the largest recipient of Title X funding and has received over \$1.6 billion in federal funds in a 15 year period. Rep. Pete Olson (R-TX) [led the effort](#) to receive information regarding the funding and has proposed a bill that would require these groups to give an account of the federal money received each year. In a statement after the GAO report was released, Rep. Olson stated, “A majority of Americans oppose taxpayer funding for groups that promote or perform abortions. With the national debt over \$13 trillion - costing every American \$118,000 - we must apply strict scrutiny to every federal dollar allocated... It is disturbing that these organizations spent over a

billion dollars over eight years. That this tax money is spent by organizations that offend the majority of Americans only further justifies the need for this alarming report.”

Republican Conference Chairman, Rep. Mike Pence, argued the need to stop funding abortion providers all together. He stated the [following](#):

This report confirms that the largest abortion provider in America is being bankrolled by American taxpayers. In these tough economic times, there is simply no reason why taxpayer money should go to fund the activities of abortion providers and equip them with the resources they need to end innocent human life....We must stop providing taxpayer dollars to abortion providers through Title X. We must put an end to Americans unwillingly providing financial support to the abortion industry. The time has come to deny any and all federal funding to Planned Parenthood by passing the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, President of the Susan B. Anthony List, also [urged](#) members to stop funding the abortion industry. She said, “Time and time again voters have said they do not want their tax dollars supporting this industry, yet Members of Congress defy their constituents by voting to channel tax dollars to abortion providers, like Planned Parenthood. Women, the unborn, and the American people deserve better than this.”

CA Same-Sex Marriage Arguments Heard in Court

This week, a U.S. District Court in California heard the [closing arguments](#) of a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Proposition 8, the state amendment that prohibits “same-sex marriage” in the state of California. Proposition 8 was added to the CA state constitution in 2008 when over 7 million residents voted to preserve traditional marriage defined as between one man and one woman.

Two same-sex couples challenged the law in January, and the Judge heard testimonies for nearly 12 days. The closing arguments were scheduled for this week, and it is [unclear](#) when a decision will be made. However, it is most likely that the case will be reviewed by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and could likely be challenged in the Supreme Court.

Brian Raum, senior counsel at Alliance Defense Fund [argued](#), “More than 7 million Californians decided that marriage should be preserved, not fundamentally changed. If a handful of activists is allowed to void a constitutional amendment protecting marriage, we have gutted the core of the American democratic system and will deny more children the mom and the dad they deserve.”

In Case You Missed It:

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

[Kagan's Views on Partial-Birth Abortion and Religious Freedom](#)

[**Sign the Petition to Stop the Repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell!**](#)



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