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“Our cause is so just and good that nothing can prevent our success but only our sins. Could I see a spirit of repentance and reformation prevail throughout the land, I should not have the least apprehension or fear of being brought under the iron rod combined against us. And though I confess that the irreligion and profaneness which are so common among us gives something of a damp to my spirits yet I cannot help hoping and even believing, that Providence has designed this continent for to be the asylum of liberty and true religion.”

Samuel West, Chaplain during Revolutionary War, July 1776

Update! States Continue to Jump on Board with Federal Standards

The deadline for states who wished to adopt the Common Core Standards in an attempt to be considered for Race to the Top (RTTT) funds was this week. While supporters of the [Common Core Standards](#) have adamantly stated that the initiative has been “state-led” and is not a move toward a national or federal standard, many concerns about the Department of Education and the Administration’s incentives to sign on and adopt the standards remain. In order to be a highly considered candidate to receive RTTT funds, states must submit “[evidence of having adopted common standards](#).” And if that is not enough to entice states, the Administration has “laid the groundwork in their blueprint for tying the \$14.5 billion in Title I funding for low-income districts to the adoption of national standards—a deal that states will likely be unable to turn down.”

Thirty-four states have now adopted these standards. Estimates on the cost to apply and implement the standards are upwards \$3 billion for each state. This has many states concerned about the “cost-benefit” factor. Other states including Texas have stronger concerns about the overreaching element of the federal government. Incentivizing states to comply and adopt a common standard in order to receive federal monies can almost be seen as a bribe to gain greater federal control.

Although the adoption of Common Core Standards is perhaps one of the [biggest transformations](#) currently in education, little debate has occurred on the issue. In fact, many states are simply adopting these standards with minimal to no evidence on whether these standards will in reality help their students achieve greater success and with no clear plan on whether the state can afford to make the dramatic changes that the Administration is urging.

The greatest threat of federal standards, however, is the lack of parental involvement. With greater federal control of education, parents will ultimately lose control. According to the [Heritage Foundation](#), “Parents will have to relinquish the most powerful tool they currently have when it comes to their children’s education: control over the content of state standards and tests. National standards will further diminish parental authority in education, and the federal government will gain more control as a result.”

To see which states have adopted these standards, please [Click Here](#).

ACTION: Please contact your state Board of Education and urge them NOT to adopt the Common Core Standards. If your state has already adopted the standards, urge them to reconsider.

Update on Supreme Court Nominee, Elena Kagan

The Senate confirmed President Obama's nominee to the Supreme Court, Ms. Elena Kagan, this week with a vote of 63-37. While the nominee was expected to be confirmed by the Senate, some Senators expressed deep concern about her judicial philosophy, lack of experience, and controversial stance on issues that include her lack of support for our military, her acceptance and endorsement of the practice of international and [Shariah law](#) in U.S. court rooms, and her [radical stance on abortion](#) including partial-birth abortion. Some Senators were also discontented with her conduct during the hearings in which she refused to answer many questions pertaining to her record.

Senator John Kyl (R-AZ) [stated his opposition](#) to Kagan's nomination due to her lack of substantive answers to the committee along with other concerns. He [stated](#) on the Senate floor this week, "Elena Kagan is intelligent, well spoken, personable, and schooled in the law. She is skilled in the art of argument – perhaps to a fault. Ignoring her own advice in the now famous University of Chicago law review article, she did not testify meaningfully before the Judiciary Committee.... I cannot support her nomination."

While Democrats continue to praise the nominee's intelligence and achievements, Republicans were a bit [more hesitant](#) to throw in their support with only 5 republicans voting in favor of her. Senator Jeff Sessions, Ranking member on the Judiciary committee, stated prior to the vote, "I ask my colleagues to not just be a rubber stamp, not to allow political pressures to influence your decisions, but make an independent and fair analysis of the nominee."

CA Court Overturns Prop 8

This week a U.S. District Judge in California ruled that Proposition 8, the state ban on same-sex marriages, [violated](#) the Constitution's due process and equal protections clauses and therefore ruled the ban as unconstitutional, opening the door for legalized same-sex marriages in the state of California. Proposition 8 was placed on the ballot in 2008, and the people of California passed the initiative with 52% of the vote. The openly gay judge who handed down the decision this week stated in his ruling, "Proposition 8 fails to advance any rational basis in singling out gay men and lesbians for denial of a marriage license. Indeed, the evidence shows Proposition 8 does nothing more than enshrine in the California Constitution the notion that opposite-sex couples are superior to same-sex couples."

While those opposed to the ban focused on equality as their main argument, the defense focused on legal standings including Supreme Court precedent that upheld the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). The defense also emphasized the democratic process, urging the judge not to ignore the majority of California residents who voted to uphold traditional marriage. Jim Campbell, a lawyer for the defense stated, "In America, we should uphold and respect the right of people to make policy changes through the democratic process, especially changes that do nothing more than uphold the definition of marriage that has existed since the founding of this country and beyond."

The [fight for traditional marriage continues](#) as the ruling has been appealed to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and will most likely go before the U.S. Supreme Court if the Justices agree to hear it.

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 26th 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 [AACCS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[Missouri Votes to Block Obamacare](#)

[ADF Appeals Parental Right Case](#)



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