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“It is fit and becoming in all people, at all times, to acknowledge and revere the Supreme Government of God; to bow in humble submission to his chastisement; to confess and deplore their sins and transgressions in the full conviction that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and to pray, with all fervency and contrition, for the pardon of their past offenses, and for a blessing upon their present and prospective action.”

Abraham Lincoln, 1861

Don't Miss the AACS National Legislative Conference in September!

The American Association of Christian Schools will be hosting the annual AACS National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. on September 13-15, 2010. This conference allows AACS members, including state leaders, school administrators, pastors, teachers, and students to convene in our nation's Capitol and hear from godly Congressmen and other national leaders who have been called to protect the religious freedom of our nation. Time is also devoted for updates on current legislation that can affect our Christian schools and ministries and for opportunities to communicate with our elected officials on these issues. Special features for this year's conference include a Congressional Briefing in the U.S. Capitol designed just for the AACS National Legislative Conference and also a special briefing by the [Heritage Foundation](#) for AACS members.

This year's theme is “But God...” based on Psalm 73:26 which states, “But God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.” While current events often bring discouraging news regarding the culture in our country, this conference not only provides opportunity to hear encouragement and challenge from God's Word but also provides the opportunity to be involved by speaking to those in leadership and standing up for the cause of Christian education.

Please make your plans to attend this year's National Legislative Conference on September 13-15, 2010, and 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](#).

FDA Approves New Abortion Pill

Conservatives are outraged that the Food and Drug Administration has just approved a new 5-day emergency contraceptive in which women can receive a prescription and use the drug to prevent an unwanted pregnancy for up to 120 hours, making Plan B look like an ineffective generic brand. The new pill named “ella” is being labeled as an abortion pill by many critics and has been compared to RU-486, an abortion pill that has many serious risks and side effects. While supporters of ella claim that it will prevent a pregnancy, the chemical make-up of the drug could actually cause the body to terminate a pregnancy. A report in the [Washington Post](#) explains this process, comparing ella to RU-486, and concludes that “ella's chemical similarity to RU-486 raises the possibility that it might do the same thing, perhaps if taken at elevated doses. But no one knows for sure whether the drug would induce an abortion, because the drug has never been tested that way.”

Further concerns lie in the funding being pushed behind the new drug. With the label of emergency contraception the drug is not prohibited from receiving federal funds as an abortion pill would be. According to Congressman Chris Smith, Chairman of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, “By misclassifying ella as emergency contraception, this Administration has paved the way to covertly allow federal funding for abortion.” The Congressman has also called on the President to sign an executive order prohibiting federal funds from going to the drug.

The most [concerning aspect](#) was the failure to fully test the drug before it was approved by the FDA. According to Wendy Wright, President of Concerned Women for America, “Adequate trials have not been done with this new drug. Incredibly, despite evidence that ella may cause birth defects in babies that survive, members of an FDA Advisory Committee recommended against long-term studies to determine if it does, preferring that women be kept in the dark.” She further noted, “Women deserve better than this. If the FDA deliberately misleads women by mislabeling the drug as a contraceptive, and does not send the drug back for adequate trials to determine the possible serious complications to women and their babies, it will be putting abortion politics above women's health. The FDA should not have lower standards for reproductive drugs for women than it would for any other drug.”

9th Circuit Court Places Emergency Stay on Same-Sex Marriages

After a highly controversial decision by U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker in California, who ruled that Proposition 8 which bans same-sex marriages in the state of CA [violated](#) the Constitution's due process and equal protections clauses, Judges at the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals handed down an emergency stay on all same-sex marriages in CA until the Appellate Court reaches a decision. While supporters of traditional marriage see this as a minor victory because same-sex marriages will not be allowed to be performed for the time being, concerns still remain on the final decision to be handed down by the Appellate Court. The Appellate Court decision is almost guaranteed to be appealed to the Supreme Court.

Many supporters of Proposition 8 [feel betrayed](#) by the judicial process after millions of voters turned up to support Proposition 8 in 2008, which passed with 52% of the vote. Millions of voters are offended and believe the openly gay judge who handed down the ruling was biased in his decision in which he stated, “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.”

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals is expected to expedite the case and hear oral arguments by early December. However, some are worried the Court may simply dismiss the case under [technicalities](#) because the defendants of Proposition 8, that is those state and local government officials who are supposed to enforce it, refuse to defend it. Both Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Attorney General Jerry Brown are refusing to join the defense and have both filed motions to allow same-sex marriages to resume immediately. Imperial County near San Diego is the only county that has requested to defend the State law in the case. The Appellate Court is now considering that request.

Bullying Summit Furthers Homosexual Agenda

Last week in the nation's Capitol, the Department of Education hosted a [two-day summit](#) on bullying. The Department's Assistant Deputy Secretary for the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools Kevin Jennings, and Assistant Secretary for the Office for Civil Rights Russlynn Ali, joined the Secretary of Education Arne Duncan in hosting the event with the purpose of [engaging](#) “governmental and nongovernmental partners in crafting a national strategy to reduce and end bullying.”

Secretary Duncan made several remarks at the opening of the conference, stating, “Bullying behavior is not only troubling in and of itself but if left unaddressed can quickly escalate into harassment, violence and tragedies. We hope this summit will help us get ahead of the game by focusing on prevention and doing everything we can to bring this plague to an end.” Many are concerned, however, that the DOE is using the

bullying platform as just another means to [push a radical homosexual agenda](#) in the name of tolerance, as the two non-governmental partners for the conference included the Gay, Lesbian, and Strait Education Network (GLSEN), and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). In fact, the HRC stated in regards to the summit, “It is our hope that this first-of-its-kind bullying summit indicates that combating bullying in our nation’s schools, particularly against LGBT students, those perceived to be LGBT or those from LGBT families, is a priority for this Administration.”

Perhaps what is most concerning is the federal government’s role in promoting the LGBT agenda as a top priority. Representing the Department of Justice, Associate Attorney General Tom Perrelli spoke at the conference and [praised steps](#) being taken to include LGBT tolerance in our schools. In one case the Department of Justice intervened on behalf of a student who was “subjected to severe and pervasive harassment based on sex,” because of the student’s failure to “conform to gender stereotypes in behavior and appearance.” Associate Attorney General Tom Perrelli praised the outcome of the case in which the school district was forced to “among other things: retain an expert in the area of harassment based on sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation to review the District’s policies, and an expert to conduct annual training for staff and students on discrimination and harassment based on sex. The agreement also required the school district to implement a comprehensive plan for disseminating its harassment policies, and to maintain records of investigations and responses to allegations of harassment for five years.”

Though the summit is over, the DOE has now set up a new “Safe and Supportive Schools grant program” intended to “enable states to measure school safety at the building level.” The DOE has also called for a “dramatic increase in funding” for the program through the Department’s blueprint for the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). While preventing bullying is essential to securing safety in our schools, hijacking the problem in order to promote a liberal social ideology will only produce more harm to American students.

In Case You Missed It:

[Participate in “Read the Constitution Day”!!!](#)

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

[House Resolution Criticizes Texas Board of Education for "Biased" Standards](#)

[“Voters and Values” Reaction to Prop 8 Decision from Christian Perspective](#)



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