



**The Washington Flyer**  
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*"While we give praise to God, the Supreme Disposer of all events, for His interposition on our behalf, let us guard against the dangerous error of trusting in, or boasting of, an arm of flesh ... That he is the best friend to American liberty, who is most sincere and active in promoting true and undefiled religion, and who sets himself with the greatest firmness to bear down profanity and immorality of every kind. Whoever is an avowed enemy of God, I scruple not to call him an enemy of his country."*

John Witherspoon, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, May 17, 1776.

**CA Governor Helps to Push Homosexual Agenda in Schools**

California residents are left puzzled as Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger caved in to the [pressures of Hollywood](#) and GLBT activists as he [signed into law](#) two pro-homosexual laws. The governor not only signed a law that would grant same-sex couples who were married out of state before Proposition 8 went into effect the same benefits that traditionally married couples receive, but he also signed a resolution that declares May 22<sup>nd</sup> "Harvey Milk Day," the same bill he vetoed last year reasoning Harvey Milk was influential in San Francisco alone and should not be recognized as a statewide event.

Many conservatives question the Governor's actions to support the GLBT agenda after the majority of Californians have already voiced their opposition and are concerned of the effect these two bills will place on families and children. According to Karen England, executive director of Capitol Resource Institute, "The people of California have clearly spoken out against same-sex marriage and Harvey Milk Day, yet the legislature and the governor continue to push their agenda on our children. Parents are outraged that their young children -- including kindergarteners -- will be forced to participate in activities 'commemorating' the life of a man known for his sexuality. Parents and voters are deeply disappointed and outraged by the governor's signing of these two unnecessary, agenda-pushing bills." Californians are worried that what has transpired with the Alameda School district could spread to the entire state, seeing that their governor is not standing up against the GLBT activists. Earlier this year the [Alameda school district](#) voted in favor of mandating K-5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum to include education of the GLBT community as part of a new program to combat bullying. The curriculum includes 45 minutes a year to be devoted to teaching children in grades K-5 to be tolerant of groups, individuals, and families who fall into the GLBT community. Kindergartners will focus on the evils of name-calling and bullying, while 5<sup>th</sup> graders will have a more comprehensive look into the stereotypes of sexual orientation. Second graders will have required reading, including "Tango Makes Three," a children's book about two gay penguins who struggle to start a family. Karen England commented, "This indicates an agenda is being pushed, as opposed to an altruistic attempt to teach tolerance."

Aiding in the push of this radical agenda is the newly named director of the "Safe and Drug Free Schools" office, [Kevin Jennings](#). A homosexual and avid activist for gay rights, Jennings was the founder of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLESN), and has written several books and reports which suggest drastic changes in curriculum and policies of the current public schools. Jennings radically seeks to change

schools and implement the homosexual agenda under the guise of anti-bullying and “safe schools.” He has stated that “homophobia and heterosexism undermine a healthy school climate” and those who do not comply with mandated policies of “safe schools” could be subject to “hate speech,” or quite possibly a “hate crime.”

The passage of pro-homosexual legislation in California and a radical new director of the “Safe and Drug Free Schools” have alarmed many parents. Many Conservatives have begun to call for the removal of Kevin Jennings hoping to spread awareness of the agenda currently being pushed in California.

### **“In God We Trust” Engraved in Capitol Visitor’s Center**

After nearly a year long fight to restore and implement the nation’s spiritual and religious heritage in the new Capitol Visitors Center (CVC), a victory has been achieved. Recently the CVC unveiled the engraving of “In God We Trust” and the pledge of Allegiance is soon to follow. Over a year ago, after touring the new CVC, Representative Randy Forbes (R-VA), Founder and Co-Chairman of the [Congressional Prayer Caucus](#), was appalled to find no mention of God or information on the rich spiritual heritage displayed in the new visitor’s center. Rep. Forbes led other members of Congress on a tour of the center and together with 108 members signed a letter to the Architect of the Capitol expressing their concerns of the lack of historical evidence and history of the Capitol’s religious heritage.

Through the efforts of Rep. Forbes and other members, the Architect agreed, along with legislation passed in both the House and Senate to correct the inaccuracies of the national motto being displayed as “E Pluribus Unum” as well as engraving “In God We Trust,” and the pledge of Allegiance, portraying the Capitol’s use as a Church in its early years and creating a permanent display dedicated to the Nation’s historical religious foundations and heritage.

Rep. Forbes stated in his [blog](#), “Individuals across the country who were willing to stand up on behalf of our nation's religious heritage saw a major victory. The “In God We Trust” engraving was completed and unveiled this week and the Pledge of Allegiance is scheduled to be completed in the coming weeks. Thousands of visitors will walk through the center each day. The efforts of the individuals that have joined in this issue have enabled those visitors to experience a more accurate depiction of our nation’s heritage written in stone.”

Though a lawsuit had been filed against the implementation of the Nation’s religious history by the Freedom From Religion organization, the Architect went through with the engraving due to the overwhelming support from Members of both the House and Senate and individuals around the Nation who were willing to stand up and fight for our religious heritage.

To find out more about the Congressional Prayer Caucus and sign up for their news updates please click [here](#).

### **The Constitution is Pro-Religious Freedom**

This past week the American Association of Christian Schools was invited to a discussion hosted by the Coalition to Preserve Religious Freedom, a non-partisan, multi-faith network of a multitude of organizations. The meeting included updates from both the House and Senate on issues relating to institutional religious freedom with topics including hate crimes, ENDA, school choice, and conscience protections in the health care reform bills. The keynote speaker, Professor Carl Esbeck argued the necessity for religious exemptions in legislation in order to safeguard religious freedom. Prof. Esbeck, currently a teacher of constitutional law at the University of Missouri Law School and the father of Charitable Choice, gave a detailed synopsis of the history of the first amendment and the rights we possess by it.

In an in-depth look at the first amendment, Prof. Esbeck found several distinguishing arguments for Congress to accommodate religious freedom. He argues that religious freedom is a constitutional value and is protected and encouraged by both the free-exercise clause and the establishment clause of the first amendment. He argues that the Constitution was written with the intent of being pro-religious freedom. While many understand this when referring to the free-exercise clause, the establishment clause is often seen as anti-religious freedom and

deemed “separation of church and state.” He argues that “separation of church and state” is a good thing and conservatives should not run from this phrase. According to Prof. Esbeck the establishment clause and “separation of church and state” was designed to protect the government from falling into doctrinal disputes as well as prohibit the state from governing or regulating religion. It was determined to be a pro-religious ordinance not an insult on religion or a gag order placed on the state.

While numerous cases are appearing before federal courts concerning religious liberty, including the case of the Mojave Desert Veteran’s Memorial, many legislatures and judges are unaware of the roots and intentions of the founding father’s and their ingenious ability to produce a strong founding document which honors and acknowledges religion as a sacred right that the state should not interfere with. This however, does not in any means forbid the government from acknowledging faith or religious beliefs. In fact, Prof. Esbeck argues because the government was founded as pro-religious freedom, it is perfectly acceptable for the government to accommodate religious institutions and should not be prosecuted for taking such actions.

Another area the speaker touched on was discrimination. He acknowledged discrimination works both ways. While some may believe religion discriminates, it is also possible for religion to be discriminated against. For example, private-sector organizations and faith based institutions should be able to receive federal funds without fearing regulations or secularization being forced upon them. Just as the government does not want taxpayer monies going toward an institution forcing their beliefs on others, so does the faith-based institution not want the government to impose their alien values on them.

The discussion was well-received and was a great insight to the history and implications of the first amendment and its regards toward religious freedom.

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

[California's Prop 8 Headed Back to Court](#)

[White House Puts DOMA, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" on Back-Burner](#)

[White House and Senate Craft Pro-Abortion Bill](#)

["The Peace \(Keepers\) Prize"](#)



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