



**The Washington Flyer**  
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*“Men who see not God in our history have surely lost sight of the fact that, from the landing of the Mayflower to this hour, the great men whose names are indissolubly associated with the colonization, rise, and progress of the Republic have borne testimony to the vital truths of Christianity.”*

Henry Wilson, U.S. Senator and U.S. Vice President under Ulysses S. Grant

**“Private Schools Serve Public Good”**

Rev. Edward Earwood, Executive Director of the [South Carolina Association of Christian Schools](#), a state affiliate of AACCS, wrote a feature article in *The Cheraw Chronicle* that discussed the benefits private schools give to the public. The feature article looks into the misconception that private schooling is separate from public education and offers sound arguments on why private schooling is actually a leader in public education. To read the full article, please click [here](#).

**“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”**

The lame duck Congress has several important pieces of legislation to consider before the holidays. The Defense Authorization Bill, which includes pay increases for soldiers, has already passed the House of Representatives but is facing an uphill battle in the Senate because of several provisions in the bill. Senate Republicans object to the measure for two main reasons: the inclusion of the repeal of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy concerning homosexuals in the military and the broad language that could lead to taxpayer funded abortions for military personnel. This week the Pentagon released a [controversial survey](#) of military personnel and their families about the possible repeal and its effects on morale and combat readiness. On Thursday, Senators were able to state their concerns about the repeal and question Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs Chairman Mike Mullen. Both of these military leaders strongly favor the repeal. They testified that allowing gays to serve openly in the military would have a negligible effect on factors such as unit cohesion and retention, as long as military leadership supported the decision and the troops received training and were educated on the matter. However, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) questioned whether the survey’s findings were [truly reflective](#) of combat troops’ positions on the issue and if enough [time for deliberation](#) would be given to Congress to review the recently released 1,500 page report and accompanying 72,000 comments. Hearings will be continued on Friday to determine the opinion of the members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on how the repeal would affect military preparedness and retention.

**Congressional Hearing on Controversial CEDAW Treaty**

Right before Thanksgiving, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law held a hearing on the CEDAW Treaty (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women). For thirty years liberal feminists groups such as the National Organization of Women and Planned Parenthood have sought ratification of this treaty; however, conservatives have fought their efforts, viewing the treaty as an attack on traditional gender roles as well as a global means to make abortion a [universal right](#) for women. The treaty was drafted 31 years ago by the United Nations; and though it was signed by President Carter, the Senate has never ratified it. The hearing in November was the first sign of its resurrection in the political debate after

no movement for nearly eight years. Senator Dick Durbin, chairman of the subcommittee, is a strong supporter of the treaty and was the only Senator to ask questions at the hearing. Witnesses on two panels were all pro-CEDAW, with the exception of Stephen Groves, an expert from the Heritage Foundation whose claims that the CEDAW [treaty would threaten](#) American women's freedoms were literally laughed at. Experts believe that the ratification of CEDAW would allow a U.N. panel to make "recommendations" on how a country could better educate women and young girls regarding their rights. The treaty has been used in several countries to do away with abortion parental consent laws as well as to strip gender stereotypes, such as motherhood and homemakers. Just last spring, the panel suggested that the country of Belarus ban Mother's Day and that Guinea decriminalize prostitution. It is still unclear if the Senate will seek to ratify CEDAW in the lame duck session.

### **"The Child" Documentary**

ParentalRights.org is a group that seeks to defend the right of parents to raise their children in the manner that they see fit. They have collaborated with several pro-family groups to raise awareness about the incremental erasing of parental rights in favor of governmental control in a 90-minute documentary called "The Child: America's Battle for the Next Generation." The film highlights recent Supreme Court decisions such as *Troxel v. Granville* and documents such as the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child that deem parental rights non-fundamental and seek to override current state laws that protect parental rights. The Watchmen production team has compiled in-depth interviews and disturbing accounts of overreaching governmental interference that establish a compelling argument for the adoption of the Parental Rights Amendment. Over 300 screenings have been booked to show this important film. Those interested in previewing the film or booking a screening in their area can visit the website [www.parentalrights.org/TheChild](http://www.parentalrights.org/TheChild) for more information.

### **Anti-Pledge Advocates Defeated in New Hampshire**

In November, the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) won a [significant victory](#) in the New Hampshire First Circuit Court of Appeals against the Freedom From Religion Foundation's attempt to ban the voluntary classroom recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. A 2002 New Hampshire statute requires a daily recitation of the pledge and also respect for those who do not wish to participate. The Freedom from Religion Foundation (FFRF), the main challengers of the law, claims to be the largest association of free thinkers (atheists, agnostics and skeptics) with over 15,000 members. FFRF has waged a nationwide media campaign against religion called "Out of the Closet" that utilizes billboards, radio programs, newspapers and "noncontracts." Michael Newdow, who won a historic 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals suit banning the mention of God in the pledge in 2002 (that was later dismissed by the Supreme Court), led this latest legal attack on the pledge on the behalf of the FFRF. The FFRF claimed that the pledge "tied piety to patriotism" and violated the separation of church and state. The ACLJ, along with 40 Congress members and 80,000 petition signers, argued that the pledge "embraces patriotism, not religion." The New Hampshire court reasserted a 2009 ruling that stated that "public schools are not obliged to shield individual students from ideas which are potentially religiously offensive." The FFRF has vowed to continue to fight religion in the courtroom and beyond.

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

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

[The Future of Education Reform—School Choice](#)

[Obama Acknowledges God in Thanksgiving Proclamation](#)