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“A watchful eye must be kept on ourselves lest while we are building ideal monuments of Renown and Bliss here we neglect to have our names enrolled in the Annals of Heaven.”

James Madison

Presidential Hopefuls Highlight School Choice at Education Summit

Last month, several Presidential hopefuls spoke at an education summit hosted by [The Seventy Four](#), a non-profit education news site focused on changing education to best serve the 74 million children in America. The speakers included former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina. The candidates each spoke of his or her vision for education reform, with school choice being the emphasis for the one-day summit. “Two or three election cycles ago, Republican candidates might talk about education reform, but it was really more in the abstract,” said Kevin Kane, the president of the Pelican Institute for Public Policy. “Now, as more and more states have expanded charter schools or started voucher programs... school choice is not just a concept. Now candidates are at a point where it’s not enough to say you’re in favor of school choice.” The summit highlighted the fact that a strong plan for choice is necessary for the potential GOP candidates to move forward in the race for the White House. Matt Ladner, senior advisor for policy and research at the Foundation for Excellence in Education, stated, “We need a set of rational policies to adjust to reality. The federal government is a source of a relatively small amount of K-12 money and a relatively large amount of paperwork. One of the best things Uncle Sam could do would be to lighten his regulatory footprint in the states so that districts could shift resources to instruction and away from compliance.” The summit was held in New Hampshire and is one of [two educational summits](#) which are being sponsored by the American Federation for Children, a school choice advocacy group. The second summit will be held in Iowa this month. To watch the candidates’ views on education reform click [here](#).

Planned Parenthood President Appears Before Congressional Committee

On Tuesday, Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards appeared before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee for an investigative [hearing](#) that lasted five hours. During the questioning, Ms. Richards admitted that Planned Parenthood facilities [do not offer](#) mammograms, radiological services, nurse on staff, and other health services for women. Since the release of ten videos that have exposed Planned Parenthood for selling body parts of aborted babies, the pro-life community has been calling for the cessation of federal funding for the abortion-industry giant. While the House has passed legislation that would defund Planned Parenthood, the Senate has failed to advance any legislation that would prohibit federal funds from supporting the abortion organization. On Wednesday, Congress advanced a short-term government spending bill which leaves intact taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood. While the bill decreases the chances of a government shutdown, conservatives view this as an important missed opportunity by Republican leadership to wage a war with President Barack Obama over the issue of funding the abortion-industry giant. The White House has indicated that Obama would sign only a “clean” resolution. Earlier this fall, Senate Democrats

blocked a continuing resolution that would have stripped the organization of its taxpayer funding. The legislation fell short of the 60 votes needed to overcome a filibuster and advance, with eight Republicans voting against the measure. Though Congress avoided a government shutdown this week, House and Senate Republicans have promised to reignite the effort in early December.

Values Voter Summit Held in D. C.

Last weekend, the FRC Action hosted the annual Values Voters Summit, attracting over 2,500 social conservatives to Washington, D.C. Highlighted speakers included Presidential hopefuls Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Ted Cruz, Donald Trump, Dr. Ben Carson, Governor Mike Huckabee, Governor Bobby Jindal, Senator Rick Santorum, and Senator Lindsey Graham. The summit focused on the key issues of concern to social conservatives, with breakout sessions and panels that covered the topics of protecting religious liberty, advancing values on Capitol Hill, strengthening national security, and advancing the pro-life cause. Senator Ted Cruz won the straw poll, with Dr. Ben Carson coming in second. To watch video archives of the speeches and panels, click [here](#). To read transcripts of the speeches of the Presidential candidates, click [here](#).

In Case You Missed It:

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

[Poll Shows Americans Believe Religious Freedom Is Declining](#)

[Bring Your Bible to School Day - October 8](#)

[Motion for Defense: Christian Education Braces for Post *Obergefell* World](#)

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