



The Washington Flyer
October 9, 2015

“Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of the people; and not for profit, honor, or private interest of any one man, family, or class of men.”
John Adams

AACS Submits Public Comments on Religious Liberty

The American Association of Christian Schools (AACS) has submitted public comments regarding the [proposed regulations](#) which will implement President Obama’s Executive Order 13559. Issued in 2010, the Executive Order purports to protect the religious liberty of individuals who benefit from social services programs by making requirements of faith-based organizations that partner with government agencies to offer these services. The regulations do provide that religious providers can maintain their religious nature, and also clarify the difference between direct and indirect recipients of federal funds, noting that indirect recipients are not subject to the new regulations. However, groups which directly partner with government agencies to provide social services will be prohibited from mandating any religious activity, such as a Bible study, associated with the services offered. These groups will also have to provide information regarding alternative providers should the beneficiary object to the religious nature of the organization. The regulations also state that there has been no instance thus far where a beneficiary has had a problem with the religious nature of a service or wanted an alternative. In public comments, the AACS objected to the principle that providing social services must be separated from any kind of religious activity: “We have grave concern over the regulations that will require organizations receiving direct financial aid to separate their services from any explicitly religious activities. Religious providers should not have to compartmentalize their religious activities in order to provide services. This creates an added burden to ministries and organizations that are already operating at a minimal staff with minimal resources, yet providing great services to those in need. Additionally, we oppose the requirement that religious organizations provide information to beneficiaries regarding alternative providers. With no evidence that recipients are being denied services because of their differing religious views, or that recipients are objecting to the religious character of an organization that is offering a service, the proposed regulations in these areas are burdensome and serve no purpose other than stifling religious expression of providers and thereby actually reducing services for the needy. In order to truly ensure protection for religious liberty while at the same time strengthening government partnerships with faith-based organizations, these two requirements should be eliminated from the proposed regulations.”

Boehner Introduces Bipartisan School Choice Legislation

This week, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) [introduced](#) the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (H.R. 10), bipartisan legislation to reauthorize school choice program in Washington, D.C. H.R. 10 reauthorizes the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, which provides an opportunity for low-income students to receive scholarship funds to attend a private school of their parents’ choice. Speaker Boehner led the effort to establish the program during his tenure as chairman of the Education and Workforce Committee in 2004, and he has been successful in keeping it funded since that time, despite the Obama Administration’s efforts in recent years to

abolish the program. This legislation would reauthorize the program through 2021. Speaker Boehner stated, “There is only one program in America where the federal government allows parents to choose the best schools for their kids, it is right here in Washington, D.C., and it is working. This program gets the kind of results parents dream of for their kids.”

Planned Parenthood Protests Planned for Saturday

The pro-life movement is encouraging all its supporters to gather this Saturday, October 10th, with a coalition of more than 40 pro-life groups for a second [national day of protests](#) at Planned Parenthood centers around the nation. The first national protest took place on August 22 and marked the largest pro-life gathering in history with over 78,000 pro-lifers outside more than 300 different Planned Parenthood locations. Meanwhile, the debate over defunding the abortion industry giant continues on Capitol Hill. This week, the House passed a resolution which will create a bipartisan Special Panel on abortion and fetal tissue procurement; the panel will function as a part of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Their work will be in addition to the investigations into Planned Parenthood currently being conducted by the Judiciary Committee and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Although Congress avoided a government shutdown last week by passing a short-term continuing resolution, which keeps the funding at the current level, many insiders expect that this only delays the fight to defund Planned Parenthood until December 11th when the continuing resolution expires.

In Case You Missed It:

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

[Planned Parenthood Under Fire Report](#)

[Arne Duncan Resigning Post as Education Secretary](#)

[Constitutional Crisis Over Planned Parenthood Investigation](#)

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