



**The Washington Flyer**  
**October 6, 2017**

*"I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go."*  
**Abraham Lincoln**

### **AACS Participates in White House Summit on Deregulation**

On Monday, AACS Legislative Director Jamison Coppola joined other leaders from national business and non-profit organizations in a White House [summit on deregulation](#). Held in the White House East Room, the purpose of the event was to kick off the second phase of President Trump's plan to "cut the red tape and to eliminate wasteful, unnecessary and job-killing regulations," according to the President's prepared [remarks](#). (Due to the tragedy in Las Vegas, the President was unable to attend the meeting, so Vice President Pence addressed the group in his stead.) In attendance at the summit were several governors, congressional leaders, members of the President's cabinet, and senior White House officials, showing the high priority the administration is giving to accomplishing the goal of cutting regulations in order to restore economic growth and individual freedom. Within the first nine months of the administration, approximately 860 regulations have been removed, following the President's new rule that for every new regulation, two old regulations must be eliminated. This has resulted in annualized cost savings of \$300 million, according to Neomi Rao, the administrator for the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. For this next phase of deregulation, the President is "challenging every federal agency to find and remove every single old, outdated, and excessive regulation on the books." Following the morning summit, ten cabinet members hosted afternoon meetings at their respective departments to discuss specific efforts to eliminate burdensome and unnecessary regulations. They will release their departments' plans to decrease regulatory burdens later this month. Representing AACS, Mr. Coppola had the opportunity to join Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in a small roundtable discussion on the efforts to reduce regulation from the Department of Education. Mr. Coppola noted, "We are grateful to have the opportunity to meet with Secretary DeVos and offer feedback on how regulations affect private religious schools. It was a privilege to participate with other educational and professional organizations and to provide the Secretary with meaningful feedback on how the Department of Education can free the educational community from regulations that prohibit innovation and adaptation of best practices in the effort to provide a better education to children." Mr. Coppola added, "We applaud the President and his cabinet for their diligent work in making America a freer and more prosperous nation. We are honored to work with Secretary DeVos in furthering her goal of keeping children first in education."

### **Reports Show Attacks on Religious Liberty Are on the Rise**

A recently released report indicates that hostility towards religion has dramatically increased over the past six years. Titled [Undeniable: The Survey of Hostility to Religion in America](#), the report was published by First Liberty, a conservative organization that works to protect the First Amendment and provide legal services for

those found oppressed. Their research found over 1,400 examples of hostile opposition to religious expression in 2016. This number is more than triple the 400 incidents documented in 2011. The report noted that the majority of these attacks are happening in the public square, in places such as schools, businesses, and the military. “What we collect is just what's published. So really it is just the tip of the iceberg because what's published is really a fraction of what is actually happening,” First Liberty CEO Kelly Shackelford stated. Some of the many examples cited in the report included a high school football coach who was fired for kneeling in prayer after a football game and a Navy chaplain who was disciplined for giving biblical counseling regarding morality. First Liberty was involved in the defense of both these cases. The report notes that “as more and more Americans become aware of the growing attacks on religious liberty and learn about what their rights are, they can stand and turn back the tides of secularism and hostility that have so eroded religious liberty—America’s first freedom.”

### **The Impact of Regulations on Schools in School Choice Programs**

A recent study by Corey DeAngelis and Lindsey Burke found that the number of regulations in school choice programs has an effect on the diversity of educational options available to parents. The [study](#), titled “Does Regulation Induce Homogenization? An Analysis of Three Voucher Programs in the United States,” considered the choice programs in Indiana, Washington, D.C., and Louisiana and how the requirements for participating schools affected the specialization of the schools. Of the three programs, the authors deemed the Louisiana Scholarship Program to be “highly regulated” in terms of requirements for enrollment, testing, teacher and staff qualifications, and overall operations of private schools, while the Indiana and Washington, D.C., programs had considerably fewer regulations. Additionally, the authors considered information from the Private School Universe Survey which shows how schools identified in the areas of admission and enrollment, overall mission, and religiosity before and after the voucher programs were employed. The authors came to the following conclusion: “We find that upon switching into school voucher programs, private schools in more heavily regulated programs are more likely to identify as less specialized than they were prior to entering the program, and that those schools in more lightly regulated environments continue to highlight their specialized approach to education.”

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

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

[U.S. House Votes to Ban Abortions After 20 Weeks](#)

[Reps. Todd Rokita and Ralph Norman Co-sponsor Bill to End U.S. Department of Education](#)

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