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*"There is a certain enthusiasm in liberty that makes human nature rise above itself,  
in acts of bravery and heroism."  
Alexander Hamilton*

**DOJ Hosts Religious Liberty Summit and Announces Religious Liberty Initiative**

The Department of Justice (DOJ) recently hosted [a religious liberty summit](#), where Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced a new initiative called the Religious Liberty Task Force. Formed to implement President Trump's [executive order](#), the task force serves to protect religious liberty better in the executive branch. More specifically, the DOJ will focus on cases that help Americans live out their faith without fear of government interference or retaliation. Sessions noted that for some, such as Jack Phillips, Barronelle Stutzman, and the Little Sisters of the Poor, following one's religious convictions can result in government discrimination and even loss of livelihood. Other speakers at the summit presented the importance of religious liberty for all. Following Sessions, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz argued that faith-based adoption agencies should have the security and freedom to serve their communities according to their religious convictions. The summit included people of non-Christian faiths, including Sikh Harpreet Singh Mokha and Rabbi Ruvi New, both of whom encountered government prejudice because of their faith. To close the summit, Sen. James Lankford (OK) asserted that every American benefits from a country that allows people to peacefully live out their beliefs. Lankford noted, that as a world leader, the United States must serve as an example to other nations by valuing religious liberty. Overall, the summit served to promote religious liberty in an increasingly secular culture. The Attorney General [warned](#) that "a dangerous movement, undetected by many, is now challenging and eroding our great tradition of religious freedom. . . . It must be confronted and defeated." For conservatives, the task force offers greater security for those who choose not to leave their faith at home or in the pew. History shows that when people of faith are free to take their beliefs beyond their front doors, they have used their freedom to invest in their communities, comfort the desolate, serve the poor, and advocate for the orphan. Despite the good work religious organizations do, some have [decried](#) the new task force as a weapon of conservative Christians to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and eradicate LGBT rights. But the inclusive nature of the summit indicated that the Trump administration is committed to protecting people of various faiths. As Rabbi New [confirmed](#), the value this country places on religious expression "is why people come from all over the world . . . even from other liberal democracies, to breathe the air of freedom in this country."

**RNC Adopts Parental Rights Policy for Sex Education**

The Republican National Committee (RNC) announced at its summer meeting in Texas a new resolution that requires parental consent for public schools to teach sex education. The [resolution](#), offered by Virginia Committeewoman Cynthia Dunbar, acknowledges parents as "a child's first and foremost educators" and describes sex education as often putting "the wishes and concerns of the parents and/or guardians at odds with those of the school district." To address this issue, the resolution changes the current opt-out system into an opt-

in system. [Currently](#), most schools allow parents to opt-out of offensive and controversial sex education lessons, but many parents are not aware of what their children are being taught in these classes. School boards are increasingly radicalizing and politicizing their sex education courses. One such [example](#) is Fairfax County, Virginia, where each student endures eighty hours of sex education on unnecessarily graphic and troubling topics, including gender fluidity and STD prevention drugs. The opt-in policy ensures that school districts get written permission before even beginning to broach these topics with children. As Committeewoman Dunbar said, “This should not be a partisan issue. Parents everywhere deserve the right to know what their children are being taught.” By adopting the new resolution, the RNC is giving parents more power to influence their children’s education.

### **President Trump Signs Education Bill Into Law**

President Trump [signed](#) the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act into law last week, marking the first piece of education legislation to become law during his presidency. The bill reauthorizes the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (CTE) which provides \$1.2 billion a year for career and technical training in high school, community colleges, and technical schools. This new law decreases the oversight of the Secretary of Education by allowing states to set their own standards and goals for CTE programs without approval from the Secretary. Both Secretary DeVos and West Wing advisor Ivanka Trump worked closely with Congress to ensure smooth passage of the bill, which passed with bipartisan support. The program has been part of the President’s plan to strengthen the economy and will reportedly help 11 million people receive better workforce training. President Trump noted the importance of the bill to strengthen the economy in a [statement](#): “In the 12 years since Congress passed the last Perkins reauthorization, the economy has evolved tremendously, becoming increasingly dependent on science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines and other skilled labor. . . . By enacting it into law, we will continue to prepare students for today’s constantly shifting job market, and we will help employers find the workers they need to compete.”

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

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

[These 6 Cases Show How Brett Kavanaugh Would Rule On Religious Liberty](#)

[7th Circuit Court Strikes Down Indiana Abortion Ultrasound Law](#)

[How School Choice for Military Families is Expanding and Hurdles That Remain](#)