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*“In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government ought to be instructed. . . . No truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people.”*

*Noah Webster*

**AACS Hosts National Legislative Conference**

Last week, the AACCS hosted the annual National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Over one hundred pastors, school administrators, state leaders, students, and teachers whose ministries are a part of the AACCS came together for a time of spiritual encouragement, legislative updates, and congressional visits. The theme of the conference was “Preparing Abundantly,” drawn from 1 Chronicles 22:5 which reads, “I will therefore now make preparation for it.” During the special services, Pastor Kurt Skelly challenged the attendees to invest in relationships as they educate and to find their strength and encouragement in the Lord. The conference included an informative legislative briefing during which attendees were briefed on current important legislative issues relative to AACCS ministries by members of our D.C. legislative office staff, Jamison Coppola and Maureen Van Den Berg. The briefing highlighted three issues in tax policy proposals that have the potential to affect Christian education: the [LIFT for Charities Act](#), the [Universal Charitable Giving Act](#), and the [USA Workforce Tax Credit Act](#). Tuesday afternoon, attendees had the opportunity to visit their congressional offices and urge members of Congress to support these proposals which will in turn lessen the burden on schools engaged in the cause of Christian education. A highlight of the conference was the congressional briefing in the U.S. Capitol which featured comments from senior staffers serving in Congress and working on conservative issues. From the House of Representatives, Katie Doherty with the Values Action Team and Dan Ziegler with the Republican Study Committee shared insight into the strategy for supporting and passing legislation for worthy causes such as life, religious liberty, and educational freedom. The briefing also featured Jim Neill from the office of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and also Michael Davis, senior counsel to Senator Chuck Grassley, who serves as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Mr. Davis offered intriguing insight into the work involved in the confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, and also spoke of the tireless work of the Judiciary Committee to fill vacancies on federal courts throughout the country. He noted that since President Trump’s inauguration, the Senate has been able to confirm 68 federal judges. A special banquet was held on Tuesday evening which provided the opportunity to honor the work and service of some of the AACCS board members. Following the banquet, attendees had the opportunity to take an extensive specialized tour of the [Museum of the Bible](#) and learn of the educational opportunities the museum can provide for Christian schools. The conference concluded Wednesday morning with a briefing hosted by The Heritage Foundation in which Lindsey Burke provided an update on educational and school choice issues and Ryan Anderson discussed the current issues that threaten religious liberty.

**Senate Vote for Supreme Court Nominee Delayed**

Just a week before his scheduled confirmation vote, a new unsubstantiated allegation made about Judge Brett Kavanaugh has caused the vote to be delayed until later next week. In the past week, Christine Blasey Ford, a psychology professor at Palo Alto University in California, has come forward, alleging that Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when they were both teenagers attending separate private high schools. According to a letter sent to ranking member on the committee Dianne Feinstein but withheld until the last possible minute of the nomination process, Ford was confronted by an inebriated teenage Kavanaugh and one of his friends while at a party. Ford says Kavanaugh attempted to force himself onto her, but she was able to escape before he could remove her clothing. Ford sent a letter in July to Rep. Anna Eshoo (CA) and Sen. Dianne Feinstein (CA) describing her charge, but Sen. Feinstein did not bring up the issue during her one-on-one meeting with Kavanaugh or during the confirmation hearing two weeks ago. Initially anonymous, Ford has now stepped forward as the accuser after her letter was leaked to the public, causing many Democrats and some Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee to call for a proper hearing. Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (IA) agreed to this request, scheduling a hearing for next Monday, while also [seeking more information](#) from Sen. Feinstein on the issue. However, Ford has declined the invitation to the hearing, while calling for an FBI investigation into the alleged assault. Despite what many Republicans and conservatives see as a [last-ditch effort](#) by Democrats to delay the confirmation vote, Chairman Grassley continues to push for a confirmation by the start of the Supreme Court term on October 1. Kavanaugh has categorically denied the allegation, and [many](#) who have known him throughout the years have defended his character in light of the accusation.

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

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

[Guest Opinion: School Choice Can Enhance School Safety](#)

[School Choice and the Success Sequence: Adapted Remarks from The Heritage Foundation's Antipoverty Forum](#)

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