



**The Washington Flyer**  
**January 30, 2026**

*"The future of this nation depends on the Christian training of our youth."  
George Washington*

**Introducing the Youth Legislative Development Conference**

The AACCS is excited to announce a new name for the summer youth conference—the **Youth Legislative Development Conference (YLDC)**. This name reflects our priority to develop comprehensive leadership growth in young people as they explore a Christian's engagement in politics. In our [recent podcast](#) for AACCS Today, Jamison Coppola, Matt Ticzkus, and Olivia Summers discuss the name change and the vision for this [exciting conference](#). "We really want them to see government as a ministry. We can see that in Scripture, that politics is a ministry to serve others," stated Summers, who has a key role in planning the conference. Coppola and Ticzkus also discussed the joy of seeing several alumni of the conference become involved in public service or civic engagement in their community. The YLDC 2026 is scheduled for July 6–10, 2026, in Washington, D.C. The conference will include a mock senate, historical tours, workshops by conservative leaders, and a Day on Capitol Hill featuring a Congressional briefing and meetings with Congressmen. Information has been emailed and mailed to each AACCS school regarding the YLDC with instructions for the [application process](#). **We encourage school leadership to pass this information on to the history and social studies teachers and any interested high school students.** To apply, a student needs to write a short paragraph explaining his interest in attending the YLDC and will also need a letter of recommendation from a teacher or administrator. **These documents should be sent to the student's state association offices by Monday, March 30.** For more information about the YLDC, and to view videos of past conferences, please visit our website [here](#).

**National Leaders and Events Celebrate National School Choice Week**

This week, leaders and families across the nation celebrated the 16th annual National School Choice Week (NSCW). Interest in school choice is growing: in 2025, [75%](#) of U.S. parents considered a new school for their child. NSCW spreads awareness of all the available education options for families, including private schools. NSCW celebrations were held all over the country this week, including one in Washington, D.C., that AACCS staff attended. This year, 31 governors issued [proclamations](#) celebrating the week. In addition, U.S. Education Secretary Linda McMahon released a [statement](#) supporting the week. "During National School Choice Week, we celebrate how school choice has changed the lives of millions of students by empowering parents and families to choose a school or program that best meets their child's needs," said McMahon. She highlighted some of the actions the Trump administration has taken to advance educational freedom. For instance, the administration has allowed states to apply for a [waiver](#) to consolidate federal funding streams to reduce compliance costs and better serve students. The administration has also championed the [federal tax credit scholarship initiative](#). This initiative will allow taxpayers to donate to scholarship-granting organizations that will bundle donations to families for expenses such as private school tuition. So far, 27 states have opted into the initiative. "It's a really special week because the president absolutely believes in school choice," McMahon [said](#). "He's the first president to get a national school choice bill."

## **Idaho Supreme Court Hears Arguments for School Choice Programs**

Last week, the Idaho Supreme Court heard [oral arguments](#) that will determine the future of Idaho's school choice tax credit program. In 2025, Idaho Gov. Brad Little signed the [Idaho Parental Choice Tax Credit](#) law that will allow parents to apply for a refundable tax credit or advance payment for qualifying educational expenses. However, several groups have sued and argued that the state's constitution prohibits the government from offering the program. The Idaho [constitution](#) says that the legislature has a duty to "establish and maintain a general, uniform and thorough system of public, free common schools." Opponents of the tax credit argued that the constitution prohibits the Idaho legislature from directly or indirectly supporting more than one type of school system. However, proponents of the tax credit argued that the constitution merely requires a baseline and that the legislature can provide additional educational opportunities for families. During oral arguments, Justice Gregory Moeller [asked](#) what "prevents the state from tweaking its tax policy to allow parents to innovate and look into different forms of education." He also asked if the legislature maintains a school system by having requirements for participating schools. Attorneys for the state argued that the program benefits all families. "Idaho's school choice law is fully constitutional," said Attorney General Raúl Labrador in a [statement](#). "Parents—not government—have the God-given right to direct their children's education." The court did not provide a timeline for when it will issue a final ruling. Until then, parents can continue to apply for the credit.

## **March for Life and the Pro-Life Movement**

The 53rd [March for Life](#) took place last week, drawing thousands of pro-life supporters to Washington, D.C., to show their support for life at all stages. The event began with a rally that featured Vice President J.D. Vance, House Speaker Mike Johnson, and Rep. Chris Smith, all of whom praised the pro-life movement and spoke of the importance of protecting life. President Trump sent a video message to the crowd. The day before the march, the White House hosted pro-life leaders in a meeting where it announced plans to expand and strengthen the Mexico City policy that prohibits federal funds from supporting abortion through foreign aid. Administration officials also announced they have stopped funding research that uses aborted fetal tissue. However, some pro-life leaders have [expressed concern](#) over the administration's approach to pro-life policy, calling for more definitive support for the Hyde Amendment (which prohibits federal funding for abortion through federal programs) and more restrictions on the abortion drug mifepristone. "Because of the indispensable role President Trump played in the overturning of Roe, we have the opportunity to save lives and serve women. But it is because of the inaction of the Trump-Vance administration on abortion drugs that this opportunity isn't being realized—and abortions are going up, not down," stated Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America. Vance noted the concerns of the pro-life community when speaking at the rally, [stating](#), "I want you to know that I hear you, and that I understand there will inevitably be debates within this movement. We love each other, and we're going to have open conversations about how best we use our political system to advance life, how prudential we must be in the cause of advancing human life."

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

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

[Practical Legal Help for Christian Schools: ADF Ministry Alliance](#)

[Presidential 1776 Award—Competition for High School Students](#)

[Nominations for Teacher of the Year Due February 6](#)