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"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."
Frederick Douglass

Greater Than Campaign Seeks to Overturn Obergefell

Over 40 pro-family organizations have joined together to launch the [Greater Than Campaign](#), an effort to refocus the national discussion about marriage and family on the needs of children. The long-term goal is to overturn the 2015 *Obergefell* decision in which the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage. The campaign is a project of [Them Before Us](#), an organization dedicated to defending the rights of children to have a mother and father. "Ten years after Obergefell, the truth is undeniable: there's a direct line between gay marriage and child victimization," [stated](#) Katy Faust, founder and president of Them Before Us. She continued, "Today, we launch Greater Than because children deserve more than adult desire dressed up as equality; they deserve their mother and father, united and protected in law, and honored in culture." The effort plans a [three-pronged approach](#) to overturning *Obergefell*: first, "re-establish the preeminence of the parent-child relationship through policy reform and strategic court cases." Second, the effort will work to change public opinion to understand that natural, biblical marriage is the best way to protect children from becoming victims of predators, trafficking, and gender confusion. Third, the campaign will work to "transform the Church into a child-centered fighting force," noting that throughout history, the church became the protector of children when the whims of adults put them at risk. In an [interview](#) on "The World and Everything in It" podcast, cultural commentator John Stonestreet explained, "What we're saying is kids are greater than adult desire." He continued, "The more we have elevated the rights of adults to be able to do whatever they want, be whoever they want, behave however they want, the more we have victimized children. . . . Ideas have consequences. Bad ideas have victims. The disproportionate victims of the sexual revolution have been children." For more information on the Greater Than Campaign and ways to join and support the movement, [click here](#).

Tennessee Lawsuit over Religious Charter School

Another religious school has applied to become a charter school. The national debate started in 2023 when St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School was approved as a virtual religious charter school in Oklahoma. That [case](#) made it all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2024. St. Isidore ultimately lost when a 4-4 decision allowed a lower court ruling to stand. Many speculate that Justice Amy Coney Barrett recused herself because of her previous ties to a St. Isidore legal strategist. A tie decision does not set a precedent, so Wilberforce Academy of Knoxville, hoping to set one, applied to become an "explicitly Christian [charter] school" in Tennessee. The academy sued when the Knox County Board of Education denied its request, citing a Tennessee law that requires public charter schools to be nonsectarian. Tennessee Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti released an [opinion](#) that the Tennessee law likely violates the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. A group of Knox County taxpayers represented by anti-Christian groups, such as the Southern Poverty Law Center, requested to intervene in the case. This week, a federal judge [ruled](#) that the taxpayers could intervene in part because it seemed unlikely that the Tennessee government would defend the law. No date has yet been set for oral arguments. If the case makes its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Barrett would likely participate and break the current tie.

Pregnant Students' Rights Act Passes House, Stalls in Senate

The Pregnant Students' Rights Act saw recent congressional action, passing the House by a vote of 217 to 211 just before the annual [March for Life](#) in Washington, D.C., last week. This week, the bill failed to pass in the Senate by a vote of 47 to 45. The bill appealed to many pro-life Republicans, who often push for a vote on pro-life legislation around the March for Life. The [Pregnant Students' Rights Act](#) would amend the Higher Education Act by adding a requirement that colleges distribute information to students about the rights, accommodations, and resources available to pregnant students. For example, under Title IX, pregnant students are [entitled](#) to access to classes and school activities, reasonable accommodations, excused absences and medical leave, and protection from pregnancy-based harassment. The bill requires colleges to distribute this information to students in annual emails, in student handbooks, at orientations, at campus health and counseling centers, and on college websites. Colleges must also share information on how a pregnant student can file a complaint with the Department of Education if she believes her rights have been violated. The bill has garnered endorsements from pro-life groups such as Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, Students for Life, March for Life Action, Concerned Women for America, and Heartbeat International. While the bill is motivated by a just concern for protecting unborn life, it unfortunately could conflict with policies held by Christian institutions, many of which teach chastity and expect their student body to abide by biblical sexual ethics. Colleges that believe the bill violates their religious beliefs would be put in the challenging position of claiming the religious exemption in Title IX from a provision that has gained wide support from the pro-life community. Although the bill failed to pass this year, it could be reintroduced in a future Congress.

Department of Education Issues Proposed Rule on Federal Student Loans

On Thursday, the Department of Education [announced](#) proposed rules on changes to federal student loan programs. The [proposed rules](#) are the outcome of last year's negotiated rulemaking committee that was tasked with implementing key aspects of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) passed by Congress last summer. In November, the negotiated rulemaking committee called Reimagining and Improving Student Education ([RISE](#)) reached consensus on regulations to implement the OBBBA. The proposed rule makes major changes to the federal student loan landscape. For example, the Grad PLUS program is eliminated, and certain programs will see a new borrowing cap. Graduate students can borrow \$20,500 a year (or \$100,000 total over the course of a program), while professional students are capped at \$50,000 a year (or \$200,000 total). Although the [definition](#) of a professional program was a point of contention during the negotiated rulemaking session, negotiators eventually agreed upon a definition that includes medicine, law, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, theology, and clinical psychology. Student loan repayment plans are also simplified into two options for borrowers: a standard plan with fixed terms and a Repayment Assistance Plan that is income-driven. Borrowers will have two chances to rehabilitate a defaulted loan before seeing adverse action like wage garnishment. The proposed rule is currently open to public comments, giving the public the opportunity to provide feedback and suggest improvements before it is finalized. Public comments must be submitted by March 2, 2026. For more information and to submit a public comment on this proposed rule, click [here](#).

In Case You Missed It:

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

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

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

[Will the Classic Learning Test Shake Up College Admissions?](#)

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