



A Publication of the American Association of Christian Schools

The Washington Flyer
July 17, 2026

“The future of this nation depends on the Christian training of our youth.”
George Washington

The AACCS Remembers Senator Lindsey Graham

The AACCS grieves the passing of Senator Lindsey Graham, remembering his faithful service to our country. Senator Graham was a strong defender of religious liberty and often spoke at our AACCS conferences in Washington, D.C., in support of those freedoms which allow our schools and ministries to thrive. We are grateful for his service and pray for comfort for his family, staff, and constituents.

AACCS Hosts the Youth Legislative Development Conference

Last week, the AACCS hosted the 32nd annual Youth Legislative Development Conference in Washington, D.C. This year, 40 high school students from 18 states learned the legislative process and developed leadership skills, all filtered through a Christian worldview. The week included a week-long mock senate, special briefings, and tours of our nation’s historic Capital. The mock senate was led by Mrs. Gail Nicholas, a Six-Diamond coach in the National Speech and Debate Association. This experience provided students the opportunity to role-play current U.S. Senators and engage in the legislative process of writing, debating, and voting on their own bills.

A “Day on the Hill” allowed the students to attend a congressional briefing, featuring staff from the offices of congressional leaders like Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (LA) and Rep. Brandon Gill (TX), among others. Later, students visited congressional offices to share their appreciation for Christian education and to advocate for religious liberty protections in the Education Freedom Tax Credit. Students also enjoyed a special White House briefing in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House complex. Officials from the Department of Education, Office of Public Liaison, Office of Legislative Affairs, Domestic Policy Council, Freedom 250, and Office of Communications spoke about the work of the administration and took student questions. Additional speakers throughout the week included Dr. Matthew Spalding from Hillsdale College, who delivered a lecture on the Declaration of Independence, and Mr. Timothy Goeglein, a vice president with Focus on the Family, who spoke about the importance of active Christian influence in America. Ryan Brann, director of communications training at the Leadership Institute, trained students on public speaking. A special staffer panel included YLDC alumni Peter Holland and Luke Ball, along with AACCS friend Worth Loving, who all spoke on how the YLDC gave them a vision for politics as a ministry.

Other highlights of the week included a tour of the Capitol with a special visit to the Speaker’s Balcony and Chapel, as well as an evening monument tour of the Jefferson, Lincoln, Vietnam War, Korean War, and World War II memorials. The monument tour was led by Mr. Tim Schmig with [Stories in Stone](#), and included a motorcoach through [American Christian Tours](#). The students also attended the Great American State Fair. The week concluded with a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, where four exemplary students received the privilege to represent the AACCS with the ceremonial wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The AACCS is grateful for an incredible week and prays for God’s blessing and guidance for the students.

Supreme Court Rules to Protect Girls' Sports

In a huge [victory](#) for women's sports, the Supreme Court has upheld state laws that prohibit males from participating in women's sports. The ruling comes in response to two cases, *Little v. Hecox* out of Idaho and *West Virginia v. B.P.J.*, both of which involved males claiming female identities who challenged the states' laws that restricted participation in women's sports to biological females. The Court unanimously held, 9-0, that the laws do not violate Title IX and also ruled 6-3 that the laws do not violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Ketanji Brown Jackson dissented on the Equal Protection issue, arguing the laws unfairly burden individuals who call themselves transgender. However, the Court's majority opinion stated clearly that the laws were indeed constitutional. "The question before the Court is: Under Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, may schools maintain women's and girls' sports for biological females? In other words, may schools determine eligibility for women's and girls' sports based on biological sex? The answer is yes," wrote Justice Brett Kavanaugh. Attorneys from Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) joined with West Virginia Attorney General JB McCuskey and Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador to successfully defend the laws. To date, 27 states have laws protecting girls' sports from males who would attempt to compete as females. In a [press release](#) following the decision, ADF President Kristen Waggoner signaled that the work to protect women's sports in all states is the next step: "After today's decision, the 23 states still on the sidelines have run out of excuses. Protect women's sports. Our girls have waited long enough."

Religious Liberty Commission Releases Report

The Religious Liberty Commission has released a draft of its [Final Report](#) examining the state of religious liberty in the United States. The commission was established by President Trump in May 2025 for the purpose of "identify[ing] emerging threats to religious liberty" and offering [recommendations](#) that will aid in upholding the laws that "protect the free exercise of religion." The commission held seven hearings and heard testimony from over 100 witnesses on religious liberty in education, the military, healthcare, parental rights, faith-based institutions, and the public and private sectors. Notably, the report begins with an historical account of our country's foundation in religious liberty and includes a lengthy clarification that the constitutional principle of church-state separation does not require excluding religion from government or public life. For K-12 and higher education, the testimonies revealed threats to religious liberty in government-run schools through the limitation of prayer and religious expression for Christians, efforts to promote transgender ideology at the expense of religious beliefs, and antisemitic bullying tactics. The report recommends the Department of Justice issue guidance outlining the religious rights of students, parents, and educators and distribute "Know Your Rights" posters for display in public institutions. Religious freedom in parental rights was also addressed, with recommendations including expansion of school choice to provide more opportunities for parents to direct their child's education and upbringing according to their beliefs. When discussing the religious freedom of institutions and organizations, the recommendations included the repeal of the [Johnson Amendment](#), which has stifled the free speech of religious leaders since 1954. To read the full report, [click here](#).

In Case You Missed It:

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

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

[Register Now for the AACCS National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.—September 14-16, 2026](#)

[Democratic Socialist Come Clean about Their True Intentions: "Overthrowing" the U.S. Government](#)