



## **AACS Celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act**

**November 20, 2013** - "The American Association of Christian Schools celebrates the twenty year anniversary of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and stands with all those who continue the work of protecting religious liberty. AACCS was privileged to work with many other organizations and individuals for RFRA's passage. Now we remember RFRA's reassertion of the fundamental principle that religious belief and practice is a sacred right worthy of protection.

Considering the American founding and the unique approach to religious freedom articulated in the First Amendment, we believe that one of government's most important duties is to protect an individual's right in the profession and practice dictated by one's religious opinions.

Some today have come to understand religious liberty as merely the right to worship, but this idea is not in keeping with the history of our founding. We believe, with our Founders, that true religious liberty is the freedom to make everyday decisions based on deeply held religious belief. This freedom can be exercised only in an environment free from the threat of government intrusion into the decision-making process. RFRA's restraint on government action into this most sacred right helps reassert this important principle.

The history of RFRA's passage reminds us that religious liberty is not a partisan issue. Religious liberty is a right so sacred and important that it transcends political party and is a threat only to those who desire the power of government to replace religious sensibilities. The values that arise in an environment of religious freedom cultivate a healthy, vibrant society and counter the dangers that inevitably come when government is the arbitrator of which beliefs are valid and which are not. We believe, along with millions of Americans, that religious liberty makes us a better country.

AACS is pleased to join with our friends celebrating RFRA, building on what has already been achieved and working to see the promise of religious freedom contained in our Constitution preserved for future generations of Americans." - **Dr. Keith Wiebe, AACCS President**

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