



AACS President Keith Wiebe Urges Congress to Protect Religious Freedom of Christian Schools

Washington, DC—In response to the Supreme Court ruling that imposes same-sex marriage on all 50 states, AACS President Dr. Keith Wiebe stated: “While this disappointing Supreme Court ruling made gay marriage the law of the land, it did not change the truth about marriage. Our work to proclaim the truth about marriage does not begin or end with today’s Supreme Court ruling. AACS continues to stand with our schools and churches as they affirm the truth that marriage remains the union of a man and a woman for the blessings that come from the bearing and rearing of children. As an organization representing 800 schools and 100,000 students, we are greatly concerned about the impact this ruling will have on our schools. There is a very real threat to religious liberty. The potential loss of tax exempt status and the attempt by government to silence those who believe and teach natural marriage threatens to prevent our schools from serving the thousands of families who desire to have a Christian education for their children.”

Dr. Wiebe’s comments today on the Supreme Court decision echo his earlier statement at the press conference on June 3 in which Senator Lee introduced the First Amendment Defense Act. The press conference highlighted the impact a Supreme Court ruling redefining marriage could have on religious educational institutions.

“We are among many other Christian and parochial school associations that strongly support this important piece of legislation by Senator Lee. This Act represents beliefs that are at the core of who we are as a nation and as educational organizations. Our schools are strongly faith based. We believe and teach that natural marriage is between one man and one woman and that sexual relations are to be reserved only for such a marriage. These beliefs require the religious freedom to base hiring and policy decisions on these firmly held beliefs.

“My great grandparents came to this country for religious freedom and the freedom to educate their children as they thought God would have them do. Many times in the country church in which I grew up, I heard the older folks thank God in their accented English that they could worship ‘undisturbed and unmolested.’ They understood religious liberty and its integral role in the fabric of our nation.

Without the protection of this act [First Amendment Defense Act], the essential tax-exempt status of these faith-based educational institutions, . . . the accreditation of our Christian schools and the certification of our teachers are in jeopardy. The federal government should not discriminate against people simply because they believe in natural marriage.

“We, therefore, urge Congress to quickly pass the First Amendment Defense Act.”

This Supreme Court decision demonstrates the need for this legislation to protect our essential first amendment right to religious liberty.