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“It is yet to be decided whether the Revolution must ultimately be considered a blessing or a curse: a blessing or a curse, not to the present age alone, for with our fate will the destiny of unborn Millions be involved. . . . At this auspicious period, the United States came into existence as a Nation, and if their Citizens should not be completely free and happy, the fault will be entirely their own.”

George Washington

New Report Offers Review of All School Choice Research

A new report has been released which compiles all the available research and studies that have been conducted regarding school choice since the first choice program was launched. Published by EdChoice, an organization devoted to educational freedom and advancing school choice, [The 123s of School Choice](#) reviews over 140 studies that have been conducted to assess the effects of school choice programs on students and their families, and also on communities and society as a whole. The report notes that the research falls into these seven categories: test scores of students who participate in choice programs, test scores of public school students, student attainment (graduation rate, college attendance, college degree), parent satisfaction, fiscal benefits, racial and ethnic integration, and values and practices of participating students. Of these studies, 122 showed school choice programs reap positive benefits, while only 5 showed a negative effect (16 studies showed the programs had no visible effect). The report also presents the research by the type of school choice program and includes specific chapters on the studies that have examined voucher programs, tax credit scholarship programs, and education savings account programs. Recognizing the challenge of interpreting the results from research and data, the report offers explanations of how the studies were conducted, relays helpful tips to guide interpretation of the results, and provides multiple graphs and charts which give excellent visual confirmation of the benefits and success of school choice programs. The authors of the report note that putting this information in one spot should enable those working to advance school choice policy and expand programs. The introduction to the report emphasizes this purpose: “States across the country are considering and passing school choice programs. Other states are expanding existing school choice programs. Families are deciding whether or not to participate in them. In light of this, we have endeavored to produce a systematic review of the existing research on private school choice to best inform those decisions.” EdChoice indicated that this report will be updated annually as school choice continues to increase in popularity and noted that studies are continuing to mark the success of these programs in a variety of areas. The report can be downloaded [here](#). EdChoice also offers a summary of this report titled the [EdChoice Study Guide](#), and an additional resource, [EdChoice 101](#), which explains the basics of school choice and how each type of program works to provide educational opportunity. Both resources can be downloaded or ordered [here](#).

U.S. Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Three SOGI Cases

On April 22, the Supreme Court [announced](#) that it would hear arguments this fall for three cases concerning LGBT rights in the workplace. The [three cases](#) represent split decisions on the Circuit Court level on whether sexual orientation/gender identity (SOGI) rights are protected through Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which

prohibits discrimination “because of . . . sex” in employment decisions. The first two cases being considered, *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, and *Altitude Express Inc. v. Zarda*, concern sexual orientation. In both cases, the Court will decide if two employees were unlawfully fired from their jobs for being gay. In *Bostock*, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Title VII does not include discrimination based on sexual orientation; but in *Zarda*, the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that sexual orientation discrimination is a “subset of sex discrimination,” and, therefore, unlawful. The third case, [R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes v. EEOC](#) (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission), concerns a transgender man who was fired from his position at a funeral home for announcing he would begin identifying and dressing as a woman at work. The 6th Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the EEOC in its ruling which determined that the definition of “sex” included gender identity. Many conservatives are concerned that a decision to reinterpret sex to include SOGI in civil rights law will harm the constitutional right to free exercise of religion when those two rights inevitably clash in the public sphere.

North Carolina Governor Vetoes Bill to Protect Infants Who Survive Abortions

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper last week [vetoed a bill](#) that would have ensured proper medical care for infants who survive an abortion. The governor defended his decision by claiming that since newborns already receive proper medical care, the law was unnecessary. However, legislators who support the measure charged otherwise, pointing to testimonies from nurses who have witnessed the killing of babies who have survived abortions. The language of the bill simply states that infants who survive an attempted abortion would have the “same claim to the protection of the law that would arise for any newborn, or for any person who comes to a hospital, clinic, or other facility.” Additionally, the bill would have made it a felony for a doctor to refuse medical care to an abortion survivor, and also would have required nurses and other staff to report such activity. The bill is similar to the [Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act](#) that has been introduced in the U.S. Congress but blocked by Democrats from advancing through either the House or the Senate. These efforts to protect these vulnerable infants are a response to recent state efforts to pass radical pro-abortion legislation. Focus on the Family is joining the efforts by hosting [Alive from New York](#), an event which will feature a live 4D ultrasound of a third trimester preborn baby on the iconic jumbotron in New York City’s Times Square. Pro-life supporters are encouraged to join the celebration of life at the event [on Saturday, May 4](#). For more information and to register, please visit the event’s website [here](#).

In Case You Missed It:

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

[May 4—Alive From New York—4D Ultrasound in Time Square](#)

[Federal Court Punishes Faith-Based Foster Care Agency for Biblical Views on Marriage](#)

["Frontal Assault on Religious Liberty": Why Religious Liberty Advocates Are So Alarmed by the Equality Act](#)