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*“That Almighty Power . . . has blessed the United States with a political Constitution founded on the will and authority of the whole people and guaranteeing to each individual security, not only of his person and his property, but of those sacred rights of conscience.”*

*James Madison*

**College Board Rescinds “Adversity Score” Nomenclature**

The College Board has announced that it will not be including an “adversity score” in students’ SAT results but will rather be instituting a new tool called Landscape that will offer college admissions offices information regarding the supposed level of hardship a student has had to overcome. The adversity score system, officially called the Environmental Context Dashboard, assigned each student a score of one to one hundred based on fifteen different factors related to the social and economic background of that student. The system had been tested in about 50 colleges, and last May the College Board announced plans to open it to all colleges and universities by 2020 to use as a tool in their admissions processes. According to David Coleman, president of the College Board and also the architect behind the common core standards, the [purpose](#) of the adversity score was to highlight “students who have demonstrated remarkable resourcefulness to overcome challenges and achieve more with less.” However, the adversity score received [criticism](#) from several quarters, ranging from those who charged it would disadvantage hard-working students from wealthy families, to those who said that wealthy families would find a way to hijack the system (i.e., changing their address to reflect a “disadvantaged” environment). Of the new Landscape tool, Coleman [stated](#), “We listened to thoughtful criticism and made Landscape better and more transparent. Landscape provides admissions officers more consistent background information so they can fairly consider every student, no matter where they live and learn.” Landscape is set to [offer information](#) regarding the average income level in a student’s neighborhood, the drop-out rate, and a comparison of SAT scores of students from the same area. Unlike the adversity score, the information provided by Landscape will be open to the public. However, some critics are still concerned that Landscape is too similar to the adversity score as it is still offering the same information to college admissions offices, just without assigning students a numeric score. Mary Clare Amselem, education policy analyst of the Heritage Foundation, [notes](#), “While the College Board is backtracking on its plans to assign students a specific score, the organization still plans to move the college admissions process away from one that rewards students based on academic performance.”

**AACS National Legislative Conference Next Week**

*AACS will be hosting our annual National Legislative Conference next week in Washington, D.C. Due to the conference, we will not be sending out The Washington Flyer but will resume the following week. We appreciate your prayers for the conference details, the attendees, and our contacts with elected and government officials.*

## **New Study Shows Ideological Gap Between Older and Younger Evangelicals**

A [new study](#) by the Democracy Fund Voter Study Group shows a growing gap in political beliefs between older and younger evangelicals. According to the study, younger evangelicals were far less supportive overall of President Trump than were older evangelicals, who continue to be stalwart supporters of the president's administration. While 80% of evangelicals age 45 and older have a favorable view of the president, only 60% of younger evangelicals share that view. Further, 55% of older evangelicals were "very favorable" toward the president, compared to only 25% of younger evangelicals. The divide widens when considering the president's policies on immigration. A majority (66%) of young evangelicals think immigration strengthens the country, compared to only 32% of older evangelicals. A [2014 Pew Research Center survey](#) found that younger evangelicals are generally more liberal than older evangelicals on a range of issues, from views on big government and stricter environmental laws to immigration and welfare. Even more pronounced is the difference between older and younger evangelicals on homosexuality and same-sex marriage, issues that 45% of younger evangelicals view favorably compared to only 23% of older evangelicals. Younger evangelicals clearly do not see the current political culture through the same lens as older evangelicals, but their beliefs are indistinguishable in at least one area: both age groups are solid supporters of the pro-life movement.

## **Federal Judge Blocks Pro-Life Law in Missouri**

A Missouri law protecting unborn babies at 8 weeks gestation has been [struck down](#) by U.S. District Judge Howard Sachs. Signed into law last May by Governor Mike Parson, the Missouri Stands for the Unborn Act ([HB 126](#)) classifies abortions performed after 8 weeks as a Class B felony, which can result in 5 to 15 years in prison. The law's only exceptions are for medical emergencies that would endanger the life of the mother; it does not include exceptions for rape or incest. The law also requires that both parents be informed before a minor has an abortion, and specifically prohibits selective abortions based on race, sex, or a prenatal disorder. Additionally, the law bans abortions at 14 weeks, 18 weeks, and 20 weeks, in an effort to ensure a ban is in place in case one of the earlier bans is blocked. Planned Parenthood and the ACLU filed a lawsuit against the newly signed law, resulting in the recent decision by the judge to overturn most parts of the law, including the incremental bans at 14, 18, and 20 weeks. However, he did leave in force the non-discrimination portion of the law, ensuring that babies cannot be aborted because of their race, gender, or a down syndrome diagnosis. Similar pro-life laws have passed this year in Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Ohio, and have also faced legal challenges from Planned Parenthood. However, some heartbeat bill supporters say this is exactly what they want: a chance to revisit *Roe v. Wade* and affirm the value of unborn life.

## **In Case You Missed It:**

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

[Lindsey Burke: Universal School Choice Is Needed - Your Address Shouldn't Limit Your Child's Future](#)

[Democratic Party Passes 'Religiously Unaffiliated,' Criticizing Christian Religious Liberty](#)

[NJ Mayor Stands Against Homosexual, Transgender Curriculum in Schools](#)