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“Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution and to the Republic for which it stands. Miracles do not cluster, and what has happened once in 6,000 years, may not happen again. Hold on to the Constitution, because if the American Constitution should fail, there will be anarchy throughout the world.”

Daniel Webster

White House Hosts School Choice Event

This week, President Trump [hosted a roundtable](#) event at the White House to discuss the success of school choice programs and highlight the need to enact a national program that will provide incentive for new educational options across the country. The President expressed his strong support for education reform, [stating](#), “Now is the time to fight for the forgotten child and that’s what we’re doing in respect to education. For decades, countless children have been trapped in failing government schools and in my administration, these children, are forgotten no longer.” Joining the President at the roundtable were Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, lawmakers who are working to expand educational opportunities, and parents and students who have experienced the benefits of school choice programs. Meeting highlights included testimonies by several students who saw their lives changed because they were able to use resources provided by choice programs in their states to attend schools more able to meet their needs. One such student, Walter Blanks, Jr., [testified](#) that school choice changed his life when he was given the opportunity to attend Tree of Life Christian School in Columbus, Ohio. He [stated](#), “While some of my friends were going to sleep to lullabies, I was going asleep to gunshots. My education allowed me to get out of that situation, and it opened me up to so much more than what I could even understand at the time.”

The roundtable also highlighted the administration’s school choice proposal, [Education Freedom Scholarships](#), which would encourage individuals and businesses to donate to scholarship granting organizations (SGOs) by giving a federal dollar-for-dollar tax credit for their contribution. Senator Ted Cruz (TX) and Representative Bradley Byrne (AL) introduced legislation [earlier this year](#) to advance this plan which would allow up to \$5 billion in tax credits for donations made to provide student scholarships. These scholarships enable parents to choose the best educational option for their children. The legislation respects the principle of federalism by giving states the freedom to participate and also to determine the guidelines for the scholarship organizations in their states. The proposed bill also offers flexibility so funds can be used to cover a variety of educational expenses including private school tuition, apprenticeships, tutoring, special education needs and services, home schooling, and summer and after-school programs. Currently, eighteen states already have a tax credit scholarship program, and the proposed federal plan is an effort to strengthen and expand these plans while also encouraging other states to establish similar programs.

Parent Resource Guide Helps Parents Understand Transgender Movement

Several organizations recently came together to produce the [Parent Resource Guide: Responding to the Transgender Issue](#), a helpful resource for parents facing today's transgender crisis. Five organizations, including the Heritage Foundation and Family Policy Alliance, represent a diverse range of Americans who are struggling to understand and respond to the transgender movement. The Parent Resource Guide uses science to support the male and female nature of the human person and gives parents the tools they need to respond when transgender issues become a reality in their community or school. Statistics, testimonies, and charts show how transgender-affirming medical intervention targets young, impressionable children to further the radical transgender agenda. A chapter on transgenderism in schools is very helpful for anyone who has family members in the public school system and reveals the freedom, privacy, and equality concerns that accompany transgender indoctrination. The guide gives parents specific questions to ask school leaders about school transgender policies and parental consent notification. The guide concludes with a plan to help parents organize in their communities to prevent transgender policies from being enacted locally. Using the guide's tools, sample questions, and statistics, parents can be thoroughly educated on the transgender crisis and be prepared to act to defend their freedoms and those of their children. To download a free copy of the Parent Resource Guide, click [here](#).

Supreme Court Allows Kentucky's Ultrasound Law to Stand

On Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed a Kentucky law to stand which requires abortion doctors to perform an ultrasound and explain the images of the pre-born baby to any woman seeking an abortion. The informed consent law was passed in 2017 and immediately challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), representing the state's one abortion clinic and three doctors, who claimed the law was unconstitutional because it violated the free speech of doctors. The state of Kentucky has defended the law, [stating](#) that it "does nothing more than require that women who are considering an abortion be provided with information that is truthful, non-misleading and relevant to their decision of whether to have an abortion." After the challenge by the ACLU, the law was blocked from taking effect by a lower court federal judge, but the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals then overturned that ruling, upholding the law. The ACLU then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court which declined to hear the case, effectively allowing the law to stand. Lila Rose of Live Action [praised](#) the Supreme Court's action, stating, "When women have a chance to see the humanity of their child and hear the heartbeat, many reject the violence of abortion." John Stonestreet of the Colson Center agreed that this is a victory for life, [noting](#), "Evils like abortion only thrive when hidden from view. Laws like this expose it for what it really is." In March, the U.S. Supreme Court will [hear arguments](#) for a different pro-life law in Louisiana which requires that abortion doctors have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital.

In Case You Missed It:

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

[AACCS Legislative Director Jamison Coppola Quoted in WORLD article, "Controversial Compromise"](#)

[Survey: Gen Z Divided on First Amendment and Free Expression](#)

[The Education Exchange: Making the Case for the Blaine Amendments](#)

Jamison Coppola: Legislative Director

Maureen Van Den Berg: Policy Analyst

Hannah Dashiell: Legislative Assistant

Legislative Office, 119 C Street SE, Washington, DC 20003

Phone: 202.547.2991

Fax: 202.547.2992