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*“At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide.”  
Abraham Lincoln, “Lyceum Address,” January 27, 1838*

**AACS Submits Public Comments on Title IX Regulations that Redefine Sex**

This week, the AACCS is submitting public comments expressing our opposition to the Department of Education’s decision to rewrite Title IX regulations according to the Biden administration’s new definition of “sex” to include sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). The Department recently announced that it would host a virtual public hearing and a written comments period for the public to voice their concerns and contribute to the rule making process. The notice of proposed rulemaking comes after President Biden announced [Executive Order 13988](#) on “Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation” and [Executive Order 14021](#) on “Guaranteeing an Educational Environment Free from Discrimination on the Basis of Sex, Including Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity.” These orders direct all federal agencies to review their memos, guidance, rules, and regulations and bring them into compliance with the Supreme Court’s ruling last summer in [Bostock v. Clayton County](#) that redefined the word “sex” in federal employment law to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

The hearing and comments center on two issues the Department of Education is addressing. First, the Department is revisiting rules promulgated under former Secretary Betsy DeVos concerning due process protections for students accused of sexual assault. Under the rules, accused students had greater due process rights to seek counsel and face their accusers. The DeVos rules were met with criticism from some institutions of higher education and interest groups arguing that the rules disincentivized victims of sexual assault from coming forward with their accusations. Second, the Department is seeking comments on its agenda to provide legal protections for people who live a homosexual or transgender lifestyle. In our comments, the AACCS argues that applying the flawed logical, legal, and constitutional reasoning of *Bostock* to all federal laws and regulations would violate constitutional principles, “inflict widespread harm on children and families,” and deprive Christians of “the freedom to practice biblical beliefs and teach what the Bible says about the creation of man, God’s design for sexuality, and the purpose of marriage.” For more information on participating in the virtual hearing and submitting written comments, click the link [here](#).

**Promise to America’s Children**

This month marks the first anniversary of the Supreme Court’s landmark decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County* that redefined “sex” for the first time in federal law to mean sexual orientation and gender identity. Despite the country’s increasing shift toward sexualizing children and protecting the status of LGBT lifestyles under federal law, Christians continue to spread the true message of God’s perfect design for humanity through efforts like Promise to America’s Children. Spearheaded by the Heritage Foundation, Family Policy Alliance, and Alliance Defending Freedom, Promise for America’s Children is a broad coalition of think tanks, associations, lawmakers, and parents who see the danger that legislation like the Equality Act poses to the health and

wellbeing of children. The coalition works across the country to pass good laws, influence local school boards, and invest in the next generation. Parents and teachers can get involved in their states by visiting [promisetoamericaschildren.org](http://promisetoamericaschildren.org).

### **Strong Parental Support for School Choice Programs for Students with Disabilities**

A recently released [report](#) from Boston University's Ceres Institute has highlighted the complexities of school choice programs for families of students with disabilities in states like Florida. Florida is a national leader in school choice, with five school choice programs that provide vouchers, tax credit scholarships, and education savings accounts to thousands of students and families. Two of these programs, the Gardiner and McKay scholarships, are specifically targeted to students with disabilities who can use the funds to attend a school that can meet their particular needs. According to the report, almost 90% of parents whose children use the Gardiner and McKay scholarships are somewhat or very satisfied with their experiences in the program. Virtually all parents involved in the programs (99%) believe that the scholarships should continue. One of the leading benefits of school choice programs is the ability for parents to remove their children from harmful environments. The report shows that only 15% of parents who use the scholarships report instances of their child experiencing bullying, compared to 30% of public-school parents. Along with interviews with parents, this data shows that school choice gives parents greater "peace of mind that their child's needs were met, and increased their confidence in their ability to choose what is best for their child."

### **Florida Governor Ron DeSantis Signs Fairness in Women's Sports Act**

This week, Florida became the eighth state to [protect fair competition](#) for women and girls by prohibiting biological men from competing in women's sports. Governor Ron DeSantis [signed](#) the "Fairness in Women's Sports Act" to preserve "fair opportunities for female athletes to demonstrate their strength, skills, and abilities in athletic competition" in public schools and colleges. The law requires that athletes compete on the sports team that aligns with their biological sex as recorded on their birth certificate and provides civil remedies for students who are harmed by violators of the new law. At the bill signing event, held at a Christian school in Jacksonville, Florida, Governor DeSantis stated, "I can tell you that in Florida, girls are going to play girls' sports, and boys are going to play boys' sports." In addition to the eight states that have enacted laws to protect women and girls in sports, [dozens](#) of other states have introduced similar bills. LGBT activists have condemned the legislation, claiming that it will cause discrimination against transgender athletes. Conservatives, however, have praised the bills for upholding the truth about gender and sexuality and protecting the most vulnerable Americans, children, from destructive transgender ideology.

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

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

[Practical Legal Help for Christian Schools: ADF Ministry Alliance](#)

[Promise to America's Children](#)

[Oklahoma Expands School Choice Scholarship Program](#)

[Oh, What a Year for School Choice!](#)