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“In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government ought to be instructed. . . . No truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people.”
Noah Webster

AACS Hosts National Legislative Conference

Last week, the AACS hosted its annual National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Approximately one hundred pastors, school administrators, state leaders, and teachers whose ministries are a part of the AACS came together for a time of spiritual encouragement, legislative updates, and congressional visits. During two special services, Pastor Jeff Redlin challenged and encouraged the attendees to be humble servant leaders and faithful in their ministries and to be willing to hear correction from the Nathans (taken from the biblical accounts of King David) God has placed in our lives. The conference schedule included a briefing at the Heritage Foundation, a congressional briefing with members of Congress and congressional staff, and a legislative briefing conducted by the AACS Washington staff, all designed to inform the attendees on current important legislative issues relative to AACS ministries. During the Heritage briefing, attendees heard from Dr. Lindsey Burke regarding the dangerous efforts to advance universal pre-K, Jonathan Butcher on the problems with critical race theory, and Jay Richards on the liberal, radical agenda to advance sexual orientation and gender identity policies at the expense of religious liberty. The congressional briefing featured comments from Senator Marsha Blackburn (TN), Representatives Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA) and Mary Miller (IL), and Jim Neill, senior advisor to Senator Mitch McConnell, all of whom spoke about the current tensions in the political climate and the efforts to protect freedom. A separate legislative briefing was also offered by members of our D.C. office staff—Jamison Coppola and Maureen Van Den Berg—specifically to explain three important issues which have the potential to affect Christian education: the [Equality Act](#), the efforts to establish [universal preschool through the budget bill](#), and the [PEACE Act](#) which is an effort on the federal level to stop education funding from supporting the teaching of Critical Race Theory

A highlight of the conference was a special banquet held on Tuesday evening which provided the opportunity to reflect on the 20th anniversary of September 11 and ask for God’s continued protection and guidance for our country as well as comfort for the victims’ families. In 2001, the attendees for the National Legislative Conference were headed into the White House for a briefing when all White House complex employees were suddenly evacuated; many of the AACS leaders prayed with White House staffers and others who were gathered on the sidewalk that tragic day. Our banquet speaker, Tim Goeglein, vice president of government relations for Focus on the Family, offered an eloquent remembrance of that day as he was working in the White House and prayed with many of the AACS folks outside the White House complex. Following the banquet, attendees had the opportunity to take a Stories in Stones tour of the Jefferson Memorial led by Tim Schmig, executive director of the Michigan Association of Christian Schools. The conference concluded Wednesday morning with time scheduled for AACS attendees to meet with their Representatives and Senators on the issues relevant to Christian schools. We are grateful for the Lord’s blessing on a great conference, and we pray that the information gained and contacts made will reap eternal rewards.

Twenty States Sue Biden Administration for Redefining Sex in Title IX

[Twenty states](#) have [sued](#) the Department of Education, Department of Justice, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for their redefining of the word “sex” in Title IX to mean sexual orientation and gender identity rather than biological sex as originally intended in the Education Amendments of 1972. The states argue that the federal government is “flouting procedural requirement in their rush to overreach” and has “issued ‘interpretations’ of federal antidiscrimination law far beyond what the statutory text, regulatory requirements, judicial precedent, and the Constitution permit.” They also argue that the government’s reliance on the Supreme Court ruling in *Bostock v. Clayton County* is incorrect because the Court explicitly refused to consider the context of education or address sex-segregated facilities such as sports teams, restrooms, and dormitories in deciding that case. The lawsuit comes as the Department of Education is working to rewrite Title IX regulations to bring them into compliance with President Biden’s [executive order](#) on Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation, which mandates that agencies treat sexual orientation and gender identity as a federally protected status. Matt Bowman, senior counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom, stated, “The Biden administration has far exceeded its legal authority to mandate that people deny basic biological reality. These illegal edicts threaten female students, religious colleges, ordinary business owners, conscientious medical doctors, and the health and safety of patients.”

House to Vote on Pro-Abortion Bill

In a quickly developing effort led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi (CA), the House will take up the Women’s Health Protection Act this week to [eradicate](#) current pro-life protections in state and federal law. House members have proposed the bill in response to the recent Texas Heartbeat Act, which protects the life of an unborn baby once its heartbeat can be detected, and a pending case before the Supreme Court which can potentially roll back the devastating effects of *Roe v. Wade*. Despite its title, the [Women’s Health Protection Act](#) will eliminate existing state and federal protections for women and their unborn children. If passed, the bill will ban current state restrictions on abortion including waiting periods, parental consent, and ultrasound requirements, along with laws that prohibit abortions once an unborn baby can feel pain. It would also end federal bans on taxpayer funding of abortion and endanger conscience protections for health care providers that object to participating in abortions. The bill would automatically enforce strict abortion protections if the Court rules in [Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization](#) to scale back the wide-reaching effects of *Roe v. Wade*. Pro-life Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA) [spoke out](#) against the bill, stating that it would go “way beyond” *Roe v. Wade* and “is really about a mandate by the federal government that would demand abortion on demand without any considerations of anyone, including the conscience of the providers.” The House is scheduled to vote on the bill by the end of the week.

In Case You Missed It:

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

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

[Promise to America’s Children](#)

[Cal Thomas: Breaking Up the Education Monopoly](#)