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*“I have been alternately called an Aristocrat and a Democrat. I am now neither. I am a Christ-ocrat. I believe all power . . . will always fail of producing order and happiness in the hands of man. He alone who created and redeemed man is qualified to govern him.”*

***Benjamin Rush***

**AACS Supports School Choice Resolution During National School Choice Week**

The AACCS has joined with other proponents of school choice in sponsoring a [Senate resolution](#) that supports school choice and parental rights. The resolution was motivated by concerns around current issues facing public education including the teaching of Critical Race Theory, overreaching COVID mandates and closures, and activist school boards. Introduced by Senator Lankford (OK), the resolution begins by “recognizing the necessity of school choice as a tool to empower all parents with the freedom to choose the best educational environment for their children and to combat destructive ideologies like Critical Race Theory promoted by many public schools.” The resolution then specifically names the issues that have ignited parents’ concerns with public education, including the teaching of racial discrimination through Critical Race Theory; mask mandates, school closures, and learning loss because of COVID-related policies; and school boards and government officials which target parents who disagree with their policies. The resolution concludes that the Senate recognizes “the importance of parental involvement in their child’s education” and also “the necessity of school choice as a tool to empower all parents with the freedom to choose the best educational environment for their children and to reject the destructive ideologies promoted by many public schools.” Senator Lankford was joined by ten other Senators—Senators Cramer (ND), Johnson (WI), Braun (IN), Hyde-Smith (MS), Cruz (TX), Rubio (FL), Boozman (AR), Inhofe (OK), Daines (MT), and Wicker (MS)—in supporting the resolution.

An additional [resolution was introduced by Senator Tim Scott](#) (SC), which specifically recognizes this week as National School Choice Week and lauds the benefits of school choice in allowing parents “to select education environments that meet the individual needs and strengths of their children.” In addition, [32 governors](#) have issued proclamations recognizing National School Choice Week (NSCW), and leadership in 400 cities and counties have issued resolutions or proclamations in support of NSCW. The goal of NSCW is to highlight the benefits and successes of school choice for children, in hopes that doing so will expand opportunities for more students and families across the country. NSCW was first started in 2011 and has since seen 150,000 independently planned events across the country hosted by schools, parents, and organizations which support school choice opportunities. This year, over 26,000 such events are part of NSCW, including school choice fairs in several states designed to give parents the opportunity to learn about educational options and participating schools that could help meet their needs. In addition, several cities and national landmarks—including even Niagara Falls—are showing their support by lighting up at night with red and yellow lights. To learn more about NSCW, please [click here](#). To learn more about educational options in your state, [please click here](#).

**March for Life Anticipates Life After Roe**

Last Friday, [tens of thousands](#) of pro-life advocates gathered on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., to proclaim the humanity of the unborn and call for the end of abortion in the 49th annual [March for Life](#). That call

is timelier now more than ever, as the Supreme Court is poised this year to rule on [Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization](#), one of the most consequential abortion cases since *Roe v. Wade* was decided in 1973. Although the March for Life has taken place every year since *Roe* was decided, this year's crowd and speakers expressed an anticipation for a new kind of pro-life advocacy if *Roe v. Wade* is struck down by the Court. In a post-*Roe* country, the right to decide abortion policies would return to the states, where battles will rage over abortion restrictions. Some states, mostly on the West Coast and in New England, have already indicated that they plan to expand abortion access. California Governor Gavin Newsom [proclaimed](#) that his state would become a "sanctuary" city for women seeking an abortion and would consider programs such as the "California Reproductive Scholarships Corps" to make it easier for lower income women to get abortions. But other states would move to dramatically restrict abortions. The [Center for Reproductive Rights](#), a pro-abortion organization, claims that twenty-four states will be "hostile" to abortion if *Roe* is overturned. While the work is far from over, pro-life advocates are hopeful that the end of *Roe* will save untold numbers of lives and put abortion on the path to ultimate extinction.

### **Religious Liberty Battle in Indiana**

The city council of West Lafayette, Indiana, is considering an ordinance which poses a serious threat to the religious liberty of churches, parents, and biblical counselors who seek to guide youth to a biblical understanding of human sexuality. The proposed [Ordinance 31-21](#) would prohibit unlicensed counselors from administering conversion therapy to minors under the age of 18, with a penalty of a \$1,000/day fine. The ordinance includes a definition for conversion therapy which is so broad that it includes "any practices or treatments that seek to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings towards individuals of the same gender." Pastor Steve Viars, senior pastor of Faith Church in West Lafayette, IN, which hosts a biblical counseling ministry, [pointed out](#) that because the ordinance names "unlicensed" counselors, it would target not just biblical counselors and pastors but also parents who are teaching their children biblical truth about human sexuality. Faith Church, along with several other area churches and groups, formed the [Lafayette Citizens for Freedom](#) to raise awareness of the danger of the ordinance and encourage concerned citizens to contact the city council members and urge a no vote. In addition, the group has [formed a petition](#) that anyone can sign, regardless of location, to voice both opposition to Ordinance 31-21 and support of personal liberty, parental rights, and religious liberty.

### **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](#)

[SC School Choice Program Has Saved Taxpayers \\$99.8 Million](#)

[Senators Seek Investigation into Biden Administration, National School Board Association, and NEA for Efforts to Silence Parents' Protests of School Policies](#)