



The Washington Flyer
July 8, 2022

“The Declaration of Independence laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity.”
John Adams

AACS Youth Legislative Training Conference

The AACCS is looking forward to hosting the annual [AACCS Youth Legislative Training Conference](#) next week, offering AACCS students from across the country the opportunity to experience the political workings of Washington, D.C., from a biblical worldview. Please join us in praying for a profitable week that provides excellent education for the students as well as inspiration to seek the Lord diligently and His will regarding their future role and how they may serve Him through service to their country. Due to the activities of the conference week, there will not be a *Washington Flyer* next week. We invite you to follow the activities of the week through Facebook ([@AACCSeducates](#)), Instagram ([@yltc_aacs](#)), and Twitter ([@AACCS_DC](#)).

School Safety and Gun Control

In response to the tragic shooting at a school in Uvalde, Texas, Congress passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, marking the first time in decades that gun control legislation has passed at the federal level. The bill passed the Senate (65-33) on Thursday, June 23, and the following day, the House of Representatives passed the bill by a vote of 234-193, with the support of 14 Republicans who joined all the Democrats in voting for the measure. President Biden signed the bill into law on Saturday, June 25. The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act is [described](#) by supporters as a “commonsense, bipartisan proposal to protect America’s children, keep our schools safe, and reduce the threat of violence across our country.” The main components of the bill include measures to address mental health issues, expand background checks for potential gun owners to include juvenile records, and use federal funding to incentivize states to expand red flag laws. The National Rifle Association and the House Freedom Caucus [issued statements](#) opposing the bill, mainly because of the inclusion of support for red flag laws which allow courts and local authorities to confiscate guns from individuals who are deemed to be a threat to themselves or others without guaranteeing due process rights.

The [portions of the new law](#) intended to strengthen school safety primarily address mental health issues through funding for training of counselors as well as programs for “developing positive school climates.” Additionally, the bill allocates \$300 million through the STOP School Violence Act to “institute safety measures in and around schools, support school violence prevention efforts and provide training to school personnel and students.” The new law also codifies the [SchoolSafety.gov](#) clearinghouse, created jointly by the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services in 2020 to provide best practice recommendations for school security and violence prevention. However, the bill prohibits use of federal funds from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to “train or equip any person with dangerous weapons in school.” The AACCS state leadership weighed in on the issue through a [letter to Congress](#), urging congressmen to pursue a policy which enables states and localities to make the best decision for their communities, rather than a sweeping federal law that inhibits Second Amendment rights. Safe schools are a vital part of a quality education for students.

GOP Proposes Legislation to Protect Children and Girls' Sports

Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN) recently introduced legislation that would strip federal funding from any public school facilitating a student's social gender transition without parental consent. The [Empower Parents to Protect Their Kids Act of 2022](#) asserts that teachers' unions and activists are key players behind the push to socially transition children, a transition which "may make it more difficult for a child to reverse course later on." If enacted, the bill would block any school which facilitates social gender transitioning, including using a student's preferred pronouns, from receiving federal funding if the school does not first obtain parental consent. The bill is a part of the [Republican Study Committee](#) family policy initiative, which Banks chairs. "Our schools are a place for math and history education, not gender theory indoctrination," said [Banks](#). The bill is cosponsored by seven Republicans and is closely related to a Senate version introduced by Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR). "My bill will protect students and ensure that parents are in control of their children's education," said [Cotton](#). Opponents of the bill claim the bill is not in the best interests of students. "Parental involvement is ideal," said [Aaron Potenz](#), a member of LGBT advocacy organization Garden State Equality, but he adds that if students share they want to transition without parental consent for fear of potential repercussions, "then we don't want school districts notifying parents." *By AACS summer intern Olivia Summers*

New Report on Religious Giving Since COVID-19

[Giving USA Foundation](#), a public service initiative of the Giving Institute, released *Giving USA*, its annual charitable giving report, on June 21, 2022. This report shows that although charitable giving increased since 2020, it did not keep up with inflation rates. Total giving in 2021 reached \$484.85 billion, which is up 4% from 2020's charitable giving. But once the total is adjusted for inflation, the change is a negative 0.7%. Giving by individuals, foundations, and bequests all showed negative trends after adjusting for inflation. On the other hand, giving by corporations increased by 18.3% after adjusting for inflation. The [Lilly Family School of Philanthropy](#) which researches and writes *Giving USA*, attributed the growth in corporate giving to a strong GDP and a good year for corporate pre-tax profits. The [Charitable Giving Coalition](#) (CGC), a lobbying and grassroots organization that represents numerous philanthropic foundations on Capitol Hill, anticipates a further decline in the total number of charitable donors. CGC's chair Brian Flahaven [noted](#), "The 2021 numbers for individuals are just now approaching the pre-tax reform level of giving in 2017. Coupled with the steady decline in the percentage of Americans giving to charity over the past two decades, sound public policy encouraging charitable giving is now more important than ever." *By AACS summer intern Kaylee Soule*

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](#)

[Arizona School Choice Law Sets New Standard for Nation](#)