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“God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever.”

Thomas Jefferson

March for Life 2023

On Friday, January 20, AACCS Washington staff participated in the annual [March for Life](#). This year’s theme for the March was “Next Steps: Marching in a Post-Roe America,” reflecting the focus of the event on shaping legislation across all 50 states to better protect life. The March for Life continues its longstanding goal of eradicating abortion across the country and focused this year on efforts to introduce pro-life legislation following the Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* that overturned *Roe v. Wade*. During the March, speakers looked ahead to a “post-Roe America” in which pro-life legislation passes on both the state and national level. Such [efforts](#) include a ban on late-term abortions, ending federal funding of abortions, restricting abortions to the first few weeks of pregnancy, passing bills to protect the conscience rights of health care providers, and banning the sale of abortion-inducing drugs. The rally speakers included Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch, who argued the *Dobbs* case before the Supreme Court; House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (LA); Congressman Chris Smith (NJ); Coach Tony Dungy, bestselling author and professional football hall of famer; and Jonathan Roumie, award-winning actor in the television series “The Chosen.” While the March for Life did not estimate the crowd size this year, a thirty-second timelapse [video](#) shows a significant crowd moving down the National Mall and up Independence Avenue toward the Capitol, the new destination for the March since the focus has now shifted from the Supreme Court to the legislature. A view of the crowd from the March for Life stage showed thousands of families, individual marchers, and school groups all turning out with joy in support of life. Even major media companies [portrayed](#) the event as “joyous” and filled with “triumph” after the overturning of *Roe*. However, [articles](#) also [highlighted](#) the lack of unified focus and the enormous amount of work pro-life Americans still have to change the hearts and minds of their fellow Americans and see abortion permanently eradicated.

Thank You, Hannah DeBruler

The above article was written by Hannah DeBruler who has served as the AACCS Government Affairs Assistant for the last five years. Her work for AACCS has included research and writing, and also representing AACCS in Washington, D.C., at various meetings and events, including the March for Life last week. Hannah and her husband are looking forward to a new stage of life as they welcome the birth of their son this spring. The AACCS would like to express our sincerest gratitude to Hannah for her excellent work with AACCS for the cause of Christian education. We wish her and her husband the best as they follow God’s leading in their lives and anticipate the arrival of their son.

National School Choice Week Celebrated in Washington, D.C.

This week is National School Choice Week (NSCW) with thousands of activities and events taking place across the country, highlighting the benefits of school choice for children and families. One such event took place in

the U.S. Capitol and was attended by teachers, parents, and students who benefit from the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program (DCOSP), and representatives from organizations that advocate for school choice, including the AACS staff. Several members of Congress spoke at the D.C. event, including Senator Tim Scott (SC), Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy (CA), and Rep. Virginia Foxx (NC), Chairman of the House Education and Workforce Committee, who called for more academic freedom, stating, “It’s time to apply our most fundamental principle—freedom—to our most fundamental system—education.” In addition to the rally, a [bipartisan resolution](#) was introduced in the Senate which officially recognized NSCW and noted that “providing a diversity of choices in K–12 education empowers parents to select education environments that meet the individual needs and strengths of their children.” Senator Lee (UT) indicated his plan to reintroduce the [Children Have Opportunities in Classrooms Everywhere Act](#) (CHOICE Act) which would further expand the opportunities for 529 accounts to be used for more educational options. Additionally, members of Congress indicated plans to reintroduce and support the [Educational Choice for Children Act](#) (ECCA) which would create a federal tax credit scholarship program allowing for \$10 billion in tax credit scholarships to help approximately 2 million children. Perhaps one of the biggest advancements for school choice during NSCW this year was when Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds [signed into law](#) on Tuesday a universal education savings account program which will be available to every child in the state.

West Virginia Transgender Sports Ban Ruled Constitutional

On January 5, U.S. District [Judge Joseph Goodwin](#) ruled that a law that prohibits individuals who see themselves as transgender from competing in girls’ sports is constitutional. West Virginia’s Save Women’s Sports Bill banned males identifying as females from competing in middle school, high school, and college girls’ sports. Judge Goodwin had temporarily blocked the law in July of 2021 but has now deemed the [law constitutional](#) because the state’s definition of the terms *girl* and *woman* is “substantially related to the important government interest of providing equal athletic opportunities for females” and thus “constitutionally permissible.” The judge further explained, “Acting to prevent transgender girls, along with all other biological males, from playing on girls’ teams is not unconstitutional if the classification is substantially related to an important government interest.” The judge also noted that “it is generally accepted that, on average, males outperform females athletically because of inherent physical differences between the sexes,” and he further pointed out that “it is beyond dispute that, barring rare genetic mutations . . . a person either has male sex chromosomes or female sex chromosomes,” adding “a transgender girl is biologically male.” The lawsuit against the state was filed in [May 2021](#), after Becky Pepper-Jackson, an 11-year-old boy who identifies as a girl, was not allowed to join the middle school’s female track and cross-country teams. The [lawyers for Pepper-Jackson](#) argued that the law violated the 14th Amendment equal protection clause and Title IX. However, West Virginia’s Attorney General [Patrick Morrisey](#) responded, “This is not only about simple biology, but fairness for women’s sports, plain and simple. Opportunities for girls and women on the field are precious and we must safeguard the future.” The [ACLU of West Virginia](#) plans to appeal the decision.

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](#)

[Christian Hope in 2023](#)