



**The Washington Flyer
September 8, 2023**

“We have this day restored the sovereign to whom all men ought to be obedient. He reigns in heaven and from the rising to the setting of the sun, let his kingdom come.”
Samuel Adams

AACS National Legislative Conference to Take Place Next Week

The AACCS will be hosting its annual National Legislative Conference next week in Washington, D.C. Because of the conference, we will not be producing *The Washington Flyer* but will resume our reporting the following week. We appreciate your prayers for the conference details, the attendees, and the contacts that will be made with elected and government officials.

AACS Submits Public Comments Regarding Parental Choice for Early Education

The AACCS submitted public comments for the [proposed regulations](#) for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), a program that provides low-income families financial assistance for child care while the parents work or obtain vocational education. The program was first established in 1990 under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act, and it is intended to encourage states to provide funds through two options: through grants or contracts which go directly to child care centers or through certificates to parents to use for the place that best meets their family’s needs. According to the law and the initial regulations that followed, states are required to offer certificate options for parents when also using grants or contracts with CCDF funding. This requirement is essential because it allows faith-based providers to participate in the program without becoming direct recipients of government funding subject to the requirements that would infringe on their autonomy and religious mission. The recently proposed regulations, however, create instances where only grants and contracts need to be offered for child care services, leaving out the option for parent certificates. According to data from the Administration for Children and Families, parent certificates have been the [preferred payment method](#), with 43 states using certificates for 99 to 100% of their CCDF funds.

The AACCS comments point out the importance of revision in key areas of the proposed regulations to ensure that parent certificates remain a viable option and are always included alongside the option for grants and contracts. The comments point out that not only is this in accordance with the law, it is also essential as it provides a path for “indirect” funding for early childhood centers and preschools and allows faith-based providers to participate in the program without burdensome requirements that infringe on their religious mission and autonomy. The comments explain that a “shift in dollars away from certificates and toward grants and contracts would necessarily limit access and options for parents who wish to choose a religious provider for the care and education of their children.” A report by the [Bipartisan Policy Center](#) shows that faith-based centers are usually the second-most preferred method of child care for parents, second only to parents staying home to provide their own care for their children. Referencing the stated goal of the proposed regulations which is to expand options for parents, the AACCS comments concluded, “It is vital that the regulations make clear the requirement that certificates be made available along with any discussion of grants and contracts. This not only ensures the most options for parents, but also is in true adherence to the law.”

Anti-School Choice Group Pushes Ballot Initiative to Overturn Choice Program

Support Our Schools, an anti-school choice group, has filed a ballot initiative to overturn the Opportunity Scholarship Act, Nebraska's school choice program. The Opportunities Scholarship Act was passed this spring and works as a tax credit scholarship program, allowing individuals and businesses to allot up to half of their state income tax liability to private school scholarships. These scholarships would be distributed to families through scholarship granting organizations. Around [5,000 students](#) were expected to enroll in private schools because of the bill. Opponents of school choice claimed that the program would divert funds from public schools, and teachers unions [pushed back](#) against the school choice program by promoting Support Our Schools. The anti-school choice group recently submitted 117,000 signatures on its petition to repeal the Opportunity Scholarship Act. If Nebraska Secretary of State Bob Evnen verifies just over 60,000 of those signatures, the petition will go on the Nebraska ballot in 2024. However, school choice advocates continue to fight for the ability of every family to find the best educational fit for their children. "I have confidence in education, both public and private," said Nebraska [Gov. Jim Pillen](#). "We will never give up on our kids."

NC Legislature Overrides Veto to Protect Women's Sports

Legislators in North Carolina protected women and girls by voting to overturn Gov. Roy Cooper's veto of the Fairness in Women's Sports Act. The new law keeps female sports distinct by prohibiting males from participating in female sports. The law passed with bipartisan support, is effective immediately, and applies to North Carolina public and private school sports teams from middle school to college. Females can still play in sports designated for men and boys, and men who play on women's teams from other states can still compete in North Carolina. LGBT activists have cried foul, claiming the law is discriminatory. Despite the backlash, many have praised the law and its protection of women. "So-called feminists will tell you that in order to have full equality, women need to sacrifice the spaces they fought so hard to secure. That is unequivocally false," [said](#) state Sen. Vickie Sawyer. "Our daughters should not be forced to compete against biological men, and overriding Gov. Cooper's veto of this legislation ensures our daughters do not have to worry about that." North Carolina is now the [23rd state](#) that has protected females from men who would participate in women's sports. At the federal level, the House of Representatives passed the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023, a bill which would ensure only females can play in female sports.

In Case You Missed It:

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

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

[Promise to America's Children](#)

[Gender Ideology Imperils Freedom](#)

[New Poll Shows 71% Support for School Choice](#)

[Report Reveals Thousands of Minors Have Undergone Transgender Surgeries](#)

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