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*“Children should be educated and instructed in the principles of freedom.”
John Adams*

The March for Life Is Happening Today!

The annual March for Life is happening today in Washington, D.C., where tens of thousands of pro-life supporters are expected, all showing their support for protecting life and abolishing abortion. The first March took place in 1974, with the goal and purpose of fighting to overturn the Supreme Court’s infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion in all 50 states. Since the overruling of *Roe* by the Supreme Court in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, pro-life advocates have focused their efforts on lobbying for legislation that will protect pre-born lives from the horrors of abortion. The theme for this year’s March is “With Every Woman, For Every Child,” to emphasize the need to care for the mother as well as the child. Several [events](#) surround the actual March, including a March for Life Expo, a pro-life advocacy workshop, and a Rose Dinner Gala, all with the goal of strengthening and equipping pro-lifers in their efforts to protect life and end abortion. The March today kicks off with a rally featuring speakers who will testify to the importance of protecting life at all stages, and then attendees will march to the area between the Capitol and the Supreme Court. The end of the March is a strategic location signifying the work of the pro-life movement to ensure legislation is passed which will end the practice of abortion and offer the hope of life to mothers and newborn babies. To watch today’s events live, follow the March for Life [Facebook page](#) or [YouTube page](#).

Next Week: National School Choice Week!

The [National School Choice Week \(NSCW\)](#) will take place next week, January 21–27, 2024, giving families and schools an opportunity to highlight the positive influence that school choice has had in the lives of thousands of students. With a [record number](#) of advances for school choice in 2023, momentum continues to build for more [expansion in 2024](#) of choice opportunities. Support for school choice continues to grow as several polls show strong majorities support expanding educational opportunities for families. A [recent poll](#) published by the National School Choice Awareness Foundation shows that parents are recognizing school choice as an important and necessary part of their children’s education. According to the poll, 72% of parents surveyed considered a new school in 2023 for their children, up from 52% in 2022, and 44% enrolled their child in a new school. Additionally, 58% of the parents indicated they were aware of school choice expansions in their states, and 64% would like more information regarding school choice options. The survey also showed that support spanned the political spectrum, with 56% of Democrat parents and 40% of Republican parents choosing new schools for their children. An [additional poll](#) which examined voters preferences showed that 76% of voters are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports school choice, including 77% of Democrats, 86% of Republicans, and 67% of Independents. In preparation for celebrating school choice next week, the organizers for National School Choice Week are offering materials and ideas to help plan events that highlight the benefit of school choice to children and families. For materials and ideas for your school or event, please [click here](#).

Tennessee Reaches Impasse on Rejecting Federal Funding

Tennessee state senators have released a [preliminary report](#) on whether the state should opt out of receiving federal education money. As the AACCS has [previously reported](#), state lawmakers assembled a 10-person committee to determine what strings are attached to federal funds and whether the state can provide the same services more efficiently. Throughout the report, the senators grappled with the implications and uncertainties of what it would mean to become the first state to reject federal K-12 dollars. They also highlighted the opportunity cost of choosing to invest more state funds into education. Although Tennessee could pull from last year's \$3.2 billion in new recurring state revenues, that income could drastically fluctuate. Instead, the senators recommended alternate ways to eliminate unwanted restrictions, such as requesting a waiver for specific federal requirements or trying to change the federal law. This decision puts the senators at odds with many of the representatives. The House is expected to release its own report soon. House Speaker Cameron Sexton believes that rejecting federal education funding will help Tennessee avoid burdensome regulations, such as [Title IX](#), which the Biden administration is trying to twist to force female sports teams to admit males. "The House agreed with [the] Senate's options for consideration," [said](#) a statement from Sexton's office. "However, the Senate would not agree with the House's actionable recommendations moving forward."

Judge Blocks Part of Iowa's Law Protecting Children

A federal judge has blocked two parts of an Iowa [law](#) that protects children from sexually explicit content and programming. District Court Judge Stephen Locher blocked parts of the law before they would have gone into effect on January 1. [Locher](#) characterized the law as "incredibly broad" and "unlikely to satisfy the First Amendment under any standard of scrutiny." He first blocked part of the law that would have protected children by requiring public school libraries to remove sexually explicit materials. Although the injunction reverses the first requirement, schools in Iowa have already removed [hundreds](#) of sexually explicit books from their libraries. Locher also blocked the part of the law requiring schools to wait until the 7th grade to discuss any concepts related to sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI) with children. However, educators must still notify parents of their child's SOGI-related requests, such as changing names or pronouns. Mike Beranek, president of the Iowa State Education Association teachers union, [celebrated](#) the injunction as a "big win." But others have pointed to what is at stake. "The fact that we're even arguing these issues is ridiculous," [said](#) Gov. Kim Reynolds. "The real debate should be about why society is so intent on over-sexualizing our young children."

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](#)

[New! AACCS Today Podcast: Christmas Cheer Has Left the Capitol](#)

[Houses of Worship Must Be Free to Protect Themselves](#)

[Congress Can Protect Parents, Kids from Biden Administration Overreach](#)

[We're Christian – And We Hire Christians](#)

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