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*“The liberties of our country, the freedom of our civil constitution, are worth defending against all hazards:
And it is our duty to defend them against all attacks.”*
Samuel Adams

Christian School Files Lawsuit Against Vermont Over LGBT Policy

Vermont targeted a Christian school for standing up for reality. Now the school is fighting back. Mid Vermont Christian School made headlines when it forfeited a girls’ basketball game against another team with a male player. Chris Goodwin, the girls’ basketball coach, decided to forfeit out of concern for the safety of his female athletes. “I would never bring my girls to a boys’ practice or have the boys come to our practice,” [said](#) Goodwin. “It is asking for an injury. It would be irresponsible on my part to put my girls, my daughter on a court to play against male athletes.” However, the Vermont Principals’ Association [banned](#) the school from participating in any future athletic event or from co-academic competitions like the Science and Math Fair and the Debate and Forensics League. Vermont has also prevented the school from participating in the state’s tuition program, all because the school believes in basic biology. The school and two of its families have sued because of the harm experienced at the hands of the state. “The students who choose to attend Mid Vermont Christian are currently losing out on valuable tuition reimbursement and being excluded from playing competitive sports and participating in academic competitions, including the Goodwin and Slarve children, whom we represent in this case,” [said](#) Jake Reed, Alliance Defending Freedom legal counsel helping litigate the case. “Vermont, through its education agency and sports association, has engaged in unconstitutional discrimination.”

At the heart of the issue lie dueling claims of what constitutes discrimination. The state is discriminating against Mid Vermont Christian in its tuition assistance and competition programs while claiming that Mid Vermont Christian is failing to align with the state’s [“nondiscrimination” rule](#) that denies real differences between the sexes. Other Christian schools have faced similar accusations. As the AACCS [reported](#), a Christian preschool in Colorado is fighting against Colorado’s “nondiscrimination” clause in the state’s universal pre-K program. And even though the Supreme Court ruled in *Carson v. Makin* that Maine must allow religious schools to participate in its school choice program, the state has [added](#) a “nondiscrimination” policy that effectively keeps religious schools from participating. Consequently, Christians across the nation are realizing that they must engage with a culture that denies reality. “You may not be interested in politics,” [said](#) Gary Bauer, president of American Values, “but the left is interested in you.” Christian school ministries interested in being prepared against potential attacks can check out the Alliance Defending Freedom Ministry Alliance. A link is always included in our “In Case You Missed It” section and is also available [here](#).

AACS Submits Public Comments to the Department of Education

The AACCS submitted public comments for proposed amendments to the “Education Department General Administrative Regulations” (EDGAR). The portion of these proposed regulations which pertain to private schools focuses on consolidating and clarifying some sections about the participation of private school students and teachers in certain programs. These programs, referred to as [“equitable services,”](#) are authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and are designed to aid primarily students with disabilities

and from low-income families, and also to provide some professional development for teachers. Part of the equitable services programs is a consultation process between local and state education agencies (LEAs and SEAs) and private school officials to determine where the services are needed. The AACS comments praise the use of the phrase “goal of agreement” in the regulations to describe the consultation process and also praise the specifications that consultation should be a continuous process, taking place before a decision is made, during the design and development of the services, and throughout implementation. The AACS comments also offer suggestions to strengthen the consultation process. Recognizing that there are some places where LEAs and SEAs sometimes fail to follow through in the provisions of equitable services, the AACS recommends that the “goal of agreement” be reiterated at specific points in the regulations to ensure students who need the equitable services are best served with the educational opportunities that help their success in learning.

Congress Introduces Bill to Fix Labor Regulations

Rep. Eric Burlison (R-MO) recently [introduced](#) the [Overtime Pay Flexibility Act](#), a bill that would prohibit the Department of Labor from carrying out a proposed rule that would change the minimum wage and overtime rules in the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). As the AACS has previously reported, the proposed rule would require employers to pay certain salaried employees who make under \$55,000 a year at least time and half for overtime work. Although the proposed rule does not apply to teachers, it could apply to certain school personnel such as secretaries or janitors. As the AACS pointed out in its public comments on the regulation, “Our ministries operate on modest budgets which do not have the flexibility with resources to immediately raise a salary or downsize in order to meet the requirements of a regulation that is intended for larger, for-profit businesses.” Burlison’s bill would stop the Department’s overreach by preventing it from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing the rule. “It’s essential that we support American companies and workers and protect them from the unnecessary federal government mandates,” [said](#) Burlison. “The Overtime Pay Flexibility Act would ensure that businesses can manage overtime compensation in a way that benefits both the business and employees.”

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](#)

[NEW! AACS Today Podcast: Protecting Children, Part 1: A Conversation with Ohio State Rep. Gary Click](#)

[Teacher Edition Podcast: AACS Executive Director Jeff Walton Discusses Unlocking the Power of Standardized Testing](#)

[‘The Blessing and the Curse’: Christian Nationalism and the War for the West](#)