



**The Washington Flyer**  
**February 14, 2025**

*"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."*  
**Frederick Douglass**

**Trump Signs Executive Orders to Protect Children and Women's Sports**

President Trump has issued an executive order to protect minors from the harmful procedures and medications prescribed for children struggling with gender dysphoria. Titled [Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation](#), the order states, "Across the country today, medical professionals are maiming and sterilizing a growing number of impressionable children under the radical and false claim that adults can change a child's sex through a series of irreversible medical interventions. This dangerous trend will be a stain on our Nation's history, and it must end." The EO recognizes the irreparable harm of these procedures, stating that "countless children soon regret that they have been mutilated and begin to grasp the horrifying tragedy" of the life-altering consequences of these procedures. The EO points out that this "blatant harm done to children . . . cloaks itself in medical necessity," and instructs that "junk science," particularly the guidance from the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), no longer be followed. The EO declares that it is government policy to "not fund, sponsor, promote, assist, or support the so-called 'transition' of a child from one sex to another, and it will rigorously enforce all laws that prohibit or limit these destructive and life-altering procedures."

An additional executive order that received much media attention bans men from competing in women's sports. In a [moving ceremony](#), surrounded by a group of female athletes, Trump signed the order, titled [Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports](#). The EO states that allowing men to compete against women "is demeaning, unfair, and dangerous to women and girls, and denies women and girls the equal opportunity to participate and excel in competitive sports." The EO is based on the original purpose of Title IX, which is to provide equal educational opportunities to women and girls. The EO declares that the federal government will "rescind all funds from educational programs" that allow transgender-identifying men to compete against women. Under the order, athletic organizations and state attorneys general must work with the administration to ensure they have policies in place to protect the dignity and safety of female athletes. The EO extends its policy to push international sports bodies, including the International Olympic Committee, to uphold sex-based distinctions in sports. "The war on women's sports is over," Trump stated. "We are putting every school receiving taxpayer dollars on notice that if you let men take over women's sports teams or invade your locker rooms, you will be investigated for violations of Title IX and risk your federal funding."

**Department of Education Terminates Contracts, Places Staffers on Leave**

On Monday, the Department of Education announced cuts in spending, affecting certain research contracts and grants related to diversity training. According to a [post on the DOGE account](#) on X, 89 contracts totaling \$881 million were terminated. "One contractor was paid \$1.5mm to 'observe mailing and clerical operations' at a mail center," stated the post. [Another post](#) announced that an additional 29 grants for DEI training, worth \$101 million, were terminated. The post stated that "One [grant] sought to train teachers to 'help students understand/interrogate the complex histories involved in oppression, and help students recognize areas of

privilege and power on an individual and collective basis.’ ” This comes after the Department last week placed at least 60 of its employees on paid administrative leave as part of the Trump administration’s goal of eliminating DEI programs from the federal government. Many of these employees participated in a voluntary two-day “Diversity Change Agent” training program in 2019 where they learned how to champion a diverse workforce and an inclusive environment. Other affected employees attended similar DEI-related trainings. The changes come as the Trump administration is increasingly focused on dismantling the Department, a key campaign promise. According to multiple reports, the administration is currently debating how it can dismantle the Department by executive order.

### **Illinois Bill Threatens Autonomy of Private Schools and Parental Rights**

A bill limiting the freedom of parents and private schools has been introduced in the Illinois General Assembly. The Homeschool Act ([H.B. 2827](#)), introduced last week by state Rep. Terra Costa Howard, seeks to bring nonpublic education, whether private school or homeschool, under the state’s control. The bill claims that Illinois must do better to adequately “protect” homeschooled children by requiring data and compliance from homeschool parents. For instance, the bill would require parents to file an annual homeschool declaration form including information such as the child’s “gender identity.” State officials could increase the required amount and type of data on this form or require parents to submit an education portfolio. Parents would be subject to truancy charges if they failed to properly file the forms or if they lack a high school diploma. In addition, the bill would require all private schools to register annually with the state Board of Education. Further, private schools would have to submit student records to the state upon request. Costa Howard previously called for stronger oversight laws last summer. “We cannot turn a blind eye to children who are not being educated,” she [said](#) in a July interview. “We need to know these kids exist.” However, opposition to the bill has already started. The Caucus Blog, a publication by the Illinois House Republicans, launched a [petition](#) against the bill with the [reminder](#) that if passed “Illinois families [will] face more costly and burdensome government intrusion and oversight.”

### **New Executive Orders to Protect Religious Liberty and Eradicate Anti-Christian Bias in the Government**

Last week, President Trump kept his campaign promise to create a federal task force fighting anti-Christian bias. Trump signed an [executive order](#) establishing the task force soon after the National Prayer Breakfast last Thursday. The order calls out the Biden administration’s weaponization of the government against Christians. For example, the Biden Department of Justice aggressively prosecuted peaceful pro-life advocates while doing little to obtain justice for vandalized churches and pregnancy centers. Members of the task force include the Secretaries of State, Treasury, Defense, Labor, and Education, among others. They will investigate anti-Christian activities in their respective agencies and recommend counteractive steps. The task force will protect the religious liberties of Americans and identify anti-Christian biases in existing law. Trump also announced the establishment of the [White House Faith Office](#), headed by televangelist Paula White. The executive order acknowledged that faith-based organizations serve others “with [a] capacity and effectiveness that often exceeds that of government.” The office will consult with faith leaders on issues such as strengthening marriage and providing effective education. The office will also search for ways to reduce burdens on the free exercise of religion. “While I’m in the White House,” Trump declared, “we will protect Christians in our schools, in our military, in our government, in our workplace, hospitals, and in our public squares.”

### **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](#)