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*"In every human Breast, God has implanted a Principle, which we call Love of Freedom;
it is impatient of Oppression, and pants for Deliverance."
Phyllis Wheatley*

Linda McMahon Faces Senate Confirmation Hearing to be Secretary of Education

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee [voted](#) 12 to 11 on Thursday to advance Linda McMahon's nomination to be Secretary of Education. If confirmed by the full Senate, McMahon would likely oversee a reduction in the Department of Education's activities and [workforce](#), and possibly its ultimate [dismantling](#). Last week, McMahon faced questions from the HELP Committee during her confirmation [hearing](#). During her opening statement at the hearing, McMahon outlined her priorities for education which include returning power to the states, supporting school choice, protecting parental rights and moral education, and encouraging more career-focused education and STEM opportunities. She also described the current problems in the educational system, referencing the recently released [low NAEP scores](#), violence and censorship on college campuses, and the erasure of American values and history. "So, what's the remedy?" she asked, and then provided her solution: "Fund education freedom not government systems, listen to parents not politicians, build up careers not college debts, empower states not special interests, invest in teachers not Washington bureaucrats." She vowed that if confirmed as secretary, she would work with Congress to "reorient the Department towards helping educators, not controlling them."

During the hearing, some Democrats expressed concern about the work of Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to cut education funding. McMahon stated her intent to scrutinize Department spending for instances of waste and abuse while executing the law. McMahon also fielded questions from Democrats regarding President Trump's executive order banning DEI in federally funded education programs, efforts to forgive student loan debt, accreditation, college accountability, Title IX, and talk about closing the Department. Republican senators focused on school choice, antisemitism on college campuses, Biden's rewrite of Title IX, wasteful spending, poor student outcomes, and DEI programs. Sen. Jim Banks (IN) noted that under the Biden administration, the Department issued \$1 billion in grants to advance DEI programs in education. Sen. Josh Hawley (MO) spoke about the oppressive atmosphere on college campuses under Biden's Title IX rule and asked how McMahon would ensure that colleges comply with Trump's executive order reversing the Title IX rule to its previous version. Multiple senators asked McMahon to investigate instances of antisemitism on campus and hold colleges accountable for breaking federal anti-discrimination laws. McMahon's answers indicated that schools that did not comply with the Title IX regulations (reinstated from President Trump's first term) would be investigated, and schools that allowed violence, particularly motivated by antisemitism, would face defunding of federal dollars. In response to the many questions regarding the president's plan to dismantle the Department, McMahon vowed to uphold the law and evaluate whether some functions of the Department, such as investigating civil rights complaints and funding programs for disabled students, would be better served in other departments.

Department of Ed Cuts Funding for “Divisive Teacher Training”

The Education Department has continued to cancel contracts that promote divisive ideologies. Last week, the Department [announced](#) it had canceled \$350 million in contracts to both the Regional Educational Laboratories and Equity Assistance Centers. According to the announcement, the Regional Educational Laboratories pushed “equity audits” instead of supporting “research, development, and technical assistance activities” intended in its \$336 million contract. The Department also canceled \$33 million in grants to four Equity Assistance Centers (EAC). Education reform activist Chris Rufo [exposed](#) some of the trainings the EAC provided in conjunction with the Department. For instance, in one [training](#), the presenter highlighted “the importance of sex work to LGBT+ survival.” In the next slide, the presenter warned of the “system of adultism.” The EAC also pushed Critical Race Theory. This week, the Department [announced](#) it had canceled an additional \$600 million of terminated teacher training grants. The announcement did not mention which specific grants it terminated. However, it did note that the trainings included topics such as personal responsibility for systemic racism, systemic forms of oppression, racial marginalization, and diversity in classroom management. “As The Nation’s Report Card (NAEP) recently indicated, America’s students are falling dangerously behind in math and reading,” [said](#) Savannah Newhouse, a Department spokesperson. “Teacher prep programs should be prioritizing training that prepares youth with the fundamentals they need to succeed for the future, not wasting valuable training resources on divisive ideologies.”

Poll: Young Voters Support Limits on Abortion

A majority of Millennials and Gen Z registered voters support some limits on abortion, according to a nationwide [poll](#) shared by [Students for Life of America](#). The poll asked 1,485 registered voters aged 18-42 questions on topics such as infanticide, human rights, and Planned Parenthood. The poll found that 67% of respondents support some limits on abortion, a two-point increase from 2024. In contrast, only 9% of respondents support unrestricted abortions through infanticide. Respondents view Planned Parenthood less favorably after learning more about its work. For instance, 30% of respondents previously neutral to Planned Parenthood view it less favorably after learning about allegations of unsafe conditions or Medicare fraud. Only 48% of respondents support giving taxpayer money to Planned Parenthood. Instead, many respondents prioritize allocating the money to services such as mental health care or public schools. The respondents also expressed concerns about how Planned Parenthood gives sterilizing hormones to minors, with 40% opposing its role in distributing the drugs. An overwhelming majority of respondents support protections for women who take chemical abortion drugs. For example, 92% believe it is important for women to be screened before receiving chemical abortion pills. “In an election in which abortion was chanted by Democratic Party operatives and media analysts like a mantra, voters did not prioritize the ending of life in the womb as predicted,” [said](#) Pro-Life Generation CEO Kristan Hawkins. “And now the largest voting block has moved away from the party that offers abortion on demand, offering the leadership of the GOP an opportunity to lead on Life, to Make America Great Again for those born and preborn.”

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](#)

[NEW! AACS Today Podcast: There’s a New Sheriff in Town](#)

[Tony Perkins: What Does God Have to Do with Government?](#)

[Department of Education Removes Nonbinary Option from FAFSA Forms](#)

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