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"Let us have faith that right makes might, and, in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

President Abraham Lincoln

AACS Welcomes Summer Interns

The AACS Washington office is pleased to welcome two <u>summer interns</u>, Hayden Coates and Hudson Knight. Hayden is a recent graduate from Pensacola Christian College with a major in history and English education. Next fall, he plans to teach in a Christian school in Tennessee. Hudson is a rising senior at Bob Jones University studying political science. He hopes to be involved in politics to help protect our freedoms, particularly religious liberty. The AACS summer internship program is designed to give college students an in-depth training on how the legislative process works, how to communicate effectively with legislators on the importance of protecting our freedoms, and how to inform others on current issues. Additionally, the interns assist the AACS staff in research and writing, as well as organizing various office projects, including the AACS Youth Legislative Training Conference. We are thrilled to have both Hayden and Hudson join the work in our AACS Washington office this summer, and we pray this is a profitable experience for them.

Embattled Fuller Theological Seminary Recommits to Biblical Teaching on Sexuality

After years of internal debate and external legal battles, Fuller Theological Seminary has announced that they will recommit to their historic and biblical understanding of human sexuality. The nation's eighth largest seminary is not affiliated with a denomination and has struggled to define its place among Christian institutions. While Fuller has a statement of faith that includes the biblical definition of marriage as between one man and one woman, the seminary accepts students and employees from denominations that affirm homosexuality. In recent years, Fuller has faced legal battles over its biblical stance on sexuality. In 2019 and 2020, former students Joanna Maxon and Nathan Brittsan sued the seminary, alleging that the school violated Title IX when it expelled them for being in same-sex marriages. The AACS joined an amicus brief in the case Maxon v. Fuller Theological Seminary, arguing that the school's religious exemption under Title IX protected its Christian distinction. The lawsuit was dismissed later that year by a district court. In 2024, the seminary saw student protests after it fired a queer staff member for her refusal to agree to the seminary's statement of faith.

In a January 10, 2024, chapel message, Fuller president David Goatley <u>laid out</u> Fuller's journey to its current position. He explained that Fuller had established a panel in 2022 to "begin a process toward a dialogue of discernment around human sexuality." Then, in 2023, Fuller began discussions on "theological clarity, pastoral companionship among people who are LGBTQIA+ and families and allies, implications for employment, and implications for community life." In 2024, a <u>draft proposal</u> would have allowed students from LGBT-affirming churches "to live with integrity consistent to the Christian communities to which they belong" while keeping the statement of faith for faculty. The draft proposal was not adopted. At its May 2025 board meeting, Fuller's board voted to uphold its "historic theological understanding of marriage." Board chair Shirley Mullen stated, "This is a signal that Fuller is Fuller, Fuller will be Fuller. . . . We will be criticized by both sides, but we want to complicate the polarization and call people to the richness of the gospel." Fuller is one of many Christian

colleges and seminaries contending with a culture increasingly opposed to biblical sexual ethics. <u>Some colleges</u> have tried to straddle the line between biblical teaching and LGBT affirmation. Other Christian colleges have reaffirmed their biblical standards, and some <u>have even seen enrollment rise</u>. These institutions have shown that holding firmly to biblical teachings can attract serious students who desire a Christian education that is distinct from what secular schools, and even many religious institutions, offer.

Christian Camp Sues Colorado Regarding Decision that Violates Religious Beliefs

A Christian camp recently filed a lawsuit over the Colorado's Department of Early Childhood decision that requires children's resident camps to allow campers to use bathrooms, showers, changing rooms, and other private facilities based on their perceived gender identity, even if that identity is different from their sex. Before filing the lawsuit, Camp IdRaHaJe, named after the Christian song "I'd Rather Have Jesus," requested a religious exemption from the Department. However, the Department denied the exemption. The lawsuit mentions that the camp teaches its students that God "has immutably created each person as either male or female in his image" and that "the differentiation of the sexes, male and female, is part of the divine image in the human race." Andrea Dill, an attorney with Alliance Defending Freedom, stated that the lawsuit centers on the violation of the camp's religious beliefs. She emphasized the camp had previously complied with all the Department's requirements without compromising its faith, until now. The case is being brought before a federal judge. If the judge sides with Colorado's Department of Early Childhood, the camp is in danger of losing its license and may have to shut down.—Written by AACS intern Hudson Knight

Nebraska Passes Bill Protecting Women's Sports

Nebraska has become the 29th legislature to pass a bill prohibiting transgender-identifying males from participating in women's sports. The Stand with Women Act, introduced by state Sen. Kathleen Kauth, passed the Nebraska legislature last week with a 33-16 vote. The bill requires that public and private schools label interscholastic and association-affiliated sports as male, female, or coed. Teams labeled for females may not include males, and teams labeled for males may not include females. Additionally, the bill protects these schools from investigation or reprimand by government entities or accreditation boards for offering sex-designated sports. Supporters believe the bill will protect players from injury and promote equality, allowing students to compete without unfair advantages. Mindy Rush Chipman, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska, argues that the bill "slams the door shut for some kids to fully participate in their school communities." However, Sen. Kauth believes that this bill and others like it "stand with women and protect the privacy, safety, and opportunity for all." The Stand with Women Act awaits Gov. Jim Pillen's signature, having passed Nebraska's unicameral legislature.—Written by AACS intern Hayden Coates

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

Democrat Party Plans Christian Voter Outreach—But Its Views 'Clash with Biblical Truth'

Young Adults in England, Wales, Turn to Faith, Report Says

Evangelicals After Obergefell: 10 Years of Living on the Wrong Side of History

Supreme Court Watch: Three Major Religious Freedom Cases Still Pending