

MINUTEMEN LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As of 6/5/09

Red font indicates changes from last update which was May 1, 2009.

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“Watch and pray that ye enter not into [slavery]” (Mt. 26:41; Neh. 4:18).

I. “Top Priority” Civil Issues

⇒ **Pray especially for these national leaders** to have wisdom and strength to stand against the nationalization of our country. I asked our AACCS national representative (Maureen Wiebe) for names of national representatives for whom to pray for wisdom and strength to stand against the evil that threatens to engulf us, and these are names she gave me. (When I asked Maureen if conservative leaders have offered any counter-proposals to address the economy, she said to go to www.GOP.gov and the website for the Republican Study Committee. She also pointed out that the vote against the Obama budget proposal was unanimous by the Republicans, in both houses.)

- Rep. Todd Akin, R-MISS
- Rep. John Boehner, OH-House Republican leader
- Rep. Eric Cantor, VA-Republican “whip”
- Rep. Trent Franks, R-AZ
- Rep. Jim Jordan, R-OH
- Rep. Mike Pence, IND, chair of Republican National Caucus
- Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, WASH, vice-chair of Republican Leadership
- Sen. Mitch McConnell, KY-minority leader in Senate
- Sen. Jim DeMint, R-SC
- Sen. Tom Coburn, R-OK

⇒ **08 Status**

We praise the Lord that He continues to provide civil protection for church-operated schools in Ohio. The “08” section of the State Board of Education-approved “Minimum Standards” defines “non-chartered, non-tax supported” schools in Ohio as legally operating for those with “truly held religious beliefs.” At the national level, the First Amendment declares that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

⇒ **Governor Strickland’s Educational Vision**

Governor Strickland’s educational vision derived from his proposed budget (HB 1) and his State of the State address is of great concern. The following was excerpted from “The Eagle,” Spring, 2009.

“The Governor’s plan begins with this premise: ‘Public education is the cornerstone that binds the forces of good government, economic prosperity, and civic engagement together to advance the *state* [emphasis added].’ That is, public education is intended to promote the state’s well-being, not necessarily that of the individual student and his/her family.” The

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I. “Top Priority” Civil Issues – (Continued)

⇒ Governor Strickland’s Educational Vision – (Continued)

“new system will cause a shift in emphasis from academic achievement to affective development within traditional benchmarks. Students will be subjected to unprecedented indoctrination in such areas as dependence on government and promise of a global society.”

The budget has a section entitled “Developing a P-16 Statewide System” and gives details of how the state’s share and control of education is to be increased in the preschool and the college years. Both the Governor and the State Board of Education are calling for new “academic standards and model curricula” to support the 21st century system, which essentially “means that outcomes will conform to liberal U. N.-based policies which are typically at odds with national sovereignty and traditional values.”

The Governor’s plan calls for all-day kindergarten and phases in twenty additional learning days over a ten-year period.

II. Bills That Have Been Introduced in the 128th Ohio General Assembly (09-10)

⇒ The State Budget (HB 1)

Governor Strickland has proposed a \$54.7 billion two-year budget, which represents a 6.3% increase in state spending. Nearly \$1 billion of new spending will go towards implementation of the Governor’s proposed “evidence-based” education funding plan, much of which should be protested (see above). (Excerpted from “The Eagle,” Spring, 2009) **Passed the House on April 29, 2009, and passed the Senate on June 3, 2009, and is now in the Conference Committee.**

⇒ Interactive Distance Learning Pilot Project (HB 4)

(Phillips, Garrison, introduced 2/17/09), assigned to the Finance & Appropriations Committee—This bill states, “The eTech Ohio commission shall develop and implement an interactive distance learning pilot project to provide, beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, access to at least three interactive distance learning courses in each school year free of charge for all high schools operated by school districts. The courses offered shall include two advanced placement courses and one foreign language course.” **Rereferred from the Education Committee to the Finance & Appropriations Committee on 4/2/09.**

This bill is included on our status sheet because I (KH) like us to be aware of technological (and other) developments in the public education sector, both to help us improve and also to be aware of current educational expectations.

⇒ Prohibit Corporal Punishment (HB 26)

(Williams, B., introduced 2/18/09) assigned to the Education Committee – prohibits corporal punishment in all public and chartered nonpublic schools. **Passed Committee on 3/26/09.**

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⇒ **Prohibit Corporal Punishment (HB 26) – (Continued)**

Governor Strickland, the State Board of Education, and many professional groups have endorsed this bill whose prime sponsor is the (democratic) chairman of the House Education Committee. KH testified against this bill in the House Education Committee (3/10/09) and gave three reasons: (1) I believe in parental control; (2) I believe in spanking; and, (3) I am against the removal of barriers to those who would take away one of the most basic historical, and effective God-given ways to develop the kind of people we want to develop as graduates of our schools.

For a full text of this testimony, see www.BCSAschools.org under “Articles.”

⇒ **Income Tax Credit for Baccalaureate Degree (HB 144)**

(Grossman, introduced 4/22/09), assigned to Ways & Means Committee – grants an income tax credit eliminating tax liability for five years for individuals who obtain a baccalaureate degree and who reside in Ohio. **Notice the following language:** Sec. 3333.51. (A) As used in this section, "institution of higher education" means all of the following:

- (1) An institution of higher education, as defined in section 3345.12 of the Revised Code;
- (2) An institution authorized by the Ohio board of regents under Chapter 1713. of the Revised Code to grant degrees and that is accredited by the appropriate regional and professional accrediting associations within whose jurisdiction it falls;
- (3) Private career schools holding program authorizations issued by the state board of career colleges and schools under division (C) of section 3332.05 of the Revised Code;
- (4) Private institutions exempt from regulation under Chapter 3332. of the Revised Code as prescribed in section 3333.046 of the Revised Code;
- (5) Any institution located outside Ohio designated as an "institution of higher education" by the Ohio board of regents for purposes of this section.

Could this later be used to determine acceptable institutions of higher education from which 08 teachers must graduate?

⇒ **Prohibit Discrimination on Basis of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity (HB 176)**

(Stewart/McGregor, introduced 5/12/09), assigned to State Government Committee – prohibits discrimination on basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. “Gender identity and expression” is defined in the bill as “the gender-related identity, appearance, or expression of an individual regardless of the individual’s assigned sex at birth.”

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⇒ **Economic Stimulus Bill Appropriations (SB 2)**

(Carey, introduced 2/10/09), assigned to Finance & Financial Institutions Committee – provides for the distribution of moneys received by the state from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 by making appropriations and to declare an emergency. **Passed the 3rd Consideration in the Senate on March 17, 2009, and was referred to the House Finance & Appropriations Committee.**

These appropriations hugely expand the role of the federal government in our lives (making our country more socialistic). With funding comes control; this results in the gradual federalization of education. This bill is included because of its significance in further replacing God with the state. (Leadership abhors a vacuum.)

⇒ **All-Day Kindergarten (SB 12)**

(Sawyer, introduced 2/10/09), assigned to Finance & Financial Institutions Committee – provides formula funding for all-day kindergarten for all school districts and community schools that offer it.

Even well-meaning intentions have the effect of removing children from their parents at younger and younger ages, resulting in a net negative effect on the culture.

⇒ **Comprehensive Sexual Health Education (SB 59)**

(Fedor, introduced 3/3/09), assigned to Education Committee – “This bill undermines current Ohio law requiring sex education to emphasize abstinence before marriage. Instead, students are taught to use “safer sex” methods—including the use of condoms. These curricula also support the gay-lesbian lifestyle.” (Excerpted from “The Eagle,” Spring, 2009)

⇒ **School Bullying/Harassment Policies (SB 126)**

(Fedor, introduced 5/5/09), assigned to Education Committee - prohibits school administrators from knowingly failing to report to law enforcement authorities menacing by stalking or telecommunications harassment that occurs on school grounds, to require a board of education to adopt a policy that prohibits bullying by electronic means, to require a school district's harassment policy to address acts that occur off school property but materially disrupt the educational environment of the school, to require a school district annually to provide training on the district's bullying policy for district employees and volunteers, and to require a school district to notify parents or guardians of students if the annual training is not completed.

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**III. Federal Legislation of Greatest Concern in the 111th Congress (09-10) –
Go to www.aacs.org and click on “Legislative Update.”**

- ⇒ **Hoekstra's A-PLUS Improvements to Education (HR 1717** – This piece of legislation doesn't immediately impact us, but the following paragraph contains good insights I didn't want us to miss.)

Today (3/25/09), Rep. Pete Hoekstra (R-Mich.) reintroduced the **Academic Partnerships Lead Us to Success (A-PLUS) Act**, a bill designed to give the states more flexibility in their use of federal funds to achieve excellence. Hoekstra, a popular Congressman from Western Michigan, was an early and consistent opponent of No Child Left Behind, the law championed by President George W. Bush and Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) that sharply increased the federal role in education and set national standards for student learning in particular subjects. Hoekstra's measure would counter the tendency of No Child Left Behind to regimentalize public education and stifle innovation at the state and local level. A-PLUS would help ensure that schools are accountable to the best local authority--parents--not to the distant bureaus of Washington. A-PLUS deserves high marks--and swift passage. Excerpted from Family Research Council's (FRC) “Washington Update,” 3/25/09

- ⇒ **David Ray Hate Crime Prevention Act of 2009 (HR 256)**

- ⇒ **Universal Pre-Kindergarten Act (HR 555)**

- ⇒ **ENDA**

- ⇒ **“Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2009” (HR 911)**

One of the provisions of the bill is to have round-the-clock access to a telephone where any youngster in any facility could call the welfare authorities concerning the treatment he or she is receiving. This bill is of great concern to works like Hephzibah House of Winona Lake, Indiana, which currently is under vicious attack by former girls and families they have tried to help. This bill has passed the House and is now in the Senate.

- ⇒ **Budget Bill (HR 85)**

This is the disastrous budget proposal by the Obama administration for which we most need to pray for our representatives. See the lead article of this alert.

- ⇒ **Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 (HR 1913)**

This bill outlines the power given to local law enforcement to prevent against “hate crimes.” In addition this bill inserts “gender identity” and “sexual orientation” to the list of those who may claim to be a victim of hate crimes. On April 20, 2009, this bill passed the house with a final vote of 249-175.

“It does not take a majority to prevail . . . but rather an irate, tireless minority keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men.” Samuel Adams

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