

## What is Happening with Common Core?

**In Alabama:** We rejoice that Eagle Betty Peters won her bid for re-election as District 2 member of the Alabama State Board of Education.



We regret the anti-Common Core candidates Patricia McGriff and Mike Parsons were not successful in their bids for Districts 6 and 8.

These seasoned classroom teachers who touted real solutions ran excellent races, but the election turned out to be a battle of anti-common core versus big business money. The anti-common core candidates were out spent by about 5 to 1. They ran in opposition to Common Core while their opponents touted “higher standards” and refused to use the

words “Common Core.” Our battle in Alabama against the nationalization of education will continue with efforts to educate and mobilize parents. As they see the effect of this on their children, they will insist, as parents have around the nation to end Common Core and return control of education to parents and local boards.

**Other states:** Around the nation states are beginning to react to the demands of parents to repeal Common Core.

**Indiana** was the first state to separate from national control, although their new standards are much like Common Core, so the battle will continue there.

**South Carolina** became the second state to repeal Common Core as Governor Nikki Haley signed a bill that will require the state to end the controversial Common Core standards initiative and require new educational standards be adopted. .

“Governor Haley and the legislature have taken the first step to push back against the federal government and special interests and put South Carolinians in charge of their children’s education,” said Emmett McGroarty, Director of Education at Ameri-

can Principles Project.

On May 5, 2014 **Oklahoma’s** Governor Mary Fallin signed the bill there to repeal Common Core and replace it with English and math academic standards to be designed by the state of Oklahoma. The bill passed both their House and Senate by large margins. The bill says that the state must use the previous Oklahoma standards during the two year period while new standards are being written and tests that are aligned with the new standards are developed. It also requires the mastery of “the standard algorithms in math” as the most logical, efficient way of teaching math. The new standards must be compared with the old standards to ensure they are NOT aligned with Common Core.

The **Missouri** legislature voted 131 to 12 in the House and 23 to 6 in the Senate to replace Common Core by the 2016-17 school year with new standards and to require new assessments in line with the new standards. This legislation also makes it possible for local school districts to adopt their own standards in addition to the state standards. This legislation is awaiting the governor’s signature as of this writing.

*Common Core continued on pg 2*

**North Carolina** may soon be joining their neighbor to the south in ending the Common Core in their state. Their House passed HB 1061 which will replace the Common Core with standards better suited to their state. The Senate has also passed the companion bill SB812 on June 6 by a vote of 33 to 15. The two bills must be reconciled since the Senate bill was passed with amendments. Hopefully, this will be done quickly and the final versions passed.

**Louisiana** Governor Bobby Jindal, who was previously in favor of Common Core, spoke out against it strongly at the recent Republican Leadership Conference held in New Orleans. He stated: "Let me be clear, I'm for standards and I'm for our kids learning and our kids being able to compete but it seems to me that there is something fundamentally wrong when the bureaucrats, where the federal government es-

pecially, thinks they know best and they don't need to listen to parents." Hopefully, this new level of leadership will translate into success in Louisiana.

In **Long Island, NY**, voters have put words into action after voting 21 school board candidates into office who do not support Common Core. As was reported on a local radio station, a clinical social worker said students are becoming sick and refusing to go to school because of stress over the Common Core curriculum. Many parents there have opted their children out of the Common Core aligned assessments because of this stress.

These are positive steps in the continuing battle to stop Common Core. We are encouraged by every win in another state. It will strengthen our case as we work to replace Common Core here with excellent standards.

## **Diane Feinstein Introduces Federal Bill to Confiscate Guns**

A trio of legislators from California (including Dianne Feinstein) have proposed a new federal law called "The Pause for Safety Act" which would allow anyone at any time to seek a "firearms restraining order" against an individual to prevent them from purchasing any new firearms and also confiscate any firearms they may already own.

The scariest part of this proposed legislation is the idea that anyone can ask for one of these restraining orders. So, for example, if a gun control activist got ahold of a sign-in sheet from a local gun range, they could start spamming the judicial system with these "gun violence prevention warrants," claiming that they believe these individuals to be about to commit a crime, and send a squad of police officers to their doorstep to confiscate their firearms. For their own good, of course.

Source:

<http://www.thetruthaboutguns.com>

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## **More Patients Going to ERs Under ObamaCare**

Since the Affordable Care Act took effect in January, there has been a spike in emergency room patients, most of whom are not facing true emergencies. According to an article published in the *Courier-Journal* magazine, there has been a 12% increase. This, in spite of the fact that ObamaCare was supposed to remove the pressures on emergency rooms around the country.

This surge, in Kentucky and around the nation, is mostly newly insured Medicaid patients. Ac-

cording to the article among the numerous reasons are:

1. A longstanding shortage of primary-care doctors leaves too few to handle all the newly insured patients.
2. Some doctors don't accept Medicaid.
3. Poor people often can't take time from work when most primary care offices are open, while ERs operate around the clock.
4. Some patients who have been uninsured for years don't have regular doctors

and are accustomed to using ERs.

5. Others have let illnesses and injuries fester so long they have become emergencies.

This is one more aspect of ObamaCare that has not lived up to the promises made by its proponents.

It also reinforces Governor Bentley's decision not to expand Medicaid in Alabama.

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# Bipartisan Draft Bill Would Revamp Federal Student Privacy Law

*This article was posted on Truth in Education by Alyson Klein on May 14, 2014. It was originally posted by Benjamin Herold on at Digital Education*

In the hopes of upgrading the security of the mounting volume of sensitive student information held by private companies, two U.S. senators released a draft of a bill that would amend the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

Among other changes, the proposed "Protecting Student Privacy Act of 2014," issued by Sen. Edward Markey, a Democrat from Massachusetts, and Sen. Orrin Hatch, a Republican from Utah would:

- Mandate new data-security safeguards for private companies;
- Prohibit the use of personally identifiable student information for advertising;
- Provide parents with the right to access and amend their children's information;
- Require districts to maintain a record of all the outside companies that have access to student information;
- Promote "data minimization," by seeking to meet data requests with non-personally identifiable information wherever possible; and
- Require that all personally identifiable information held by outside parties eventually be destroyed in order to prevent private companies from maintaining permanent dossiers on students.

"Recent changes to FERPA have allowed for the increased sharing and use of student data in the private sector," reads a statement issued by Markey's office. "The draft legislation would ensure that students are better protected when data is shared with and held by third parties, and parents are able to control the sensitive information of their children."

The U.S. Department of Education in February released new guidance for schools and districts on the hot-button issue of student data privacy, but many continue to believe that FERPA is too antiquated and weak in the current era of "big data" and digital learning. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently

A number of high-profile instances have recently shone a light on growing concerns about student data privacy. Last month, in the wake of an ongoing federal lawsuit and a report from *Education Week*, giant online-services company Google announced it would stop scanning and indexing student email messages. Also last month, Atlanta-based nonprofit inBloom, which aimed to serve as a data repository helping to more securely and efficiently connect states and districts to private companies, announced that it will cease operations following huge pushback in a number of states.

**F**ormer Abortion Clinic Owner: We Pushed Sex Ed on Kids to Create a Market for Abortion. For six years Carol Everett operated four abortion clinics in Texas. As reported by *The Catholic Register*, Everett earned a commission for every abortion in addition to a share of the fees charged by each clinic. She says she sold abortion and made big bucks off of the “cash cow” of abortion. A new abortion clinic, she said at the annual Rose Dinner for the National March for Life in Ottawa, would make enough money to pay for itself in a single month. <http://www.lifenews.com/2014/05/14>

**U**SA Today reports that Veterans Affairs has been well aware of problems with its bureaucratic system for some time. The Veterans Affairs Medical Center of Cincinnati settled 10 wrongful death claims between 2001-2012 for a total of \$1.57 million, including several cases for missed diagnoses and 'faulty care.' The VA, under increased scrutiny for possible falsified wait time information, settled more than 1,000 such cases for more than \$200 million nationally. It's a staggering problem that, again, is a flashing warning of what life will be like under ObamaCare. Also contrast the settlements to the \$8.8 million in bonuses paid to officials at seven troublemaking VA facilities. It's unconscionable that troubles at the VA were ignored.

*From the Patriot Post,*  
May 14, 2014 <http://patriotpost.us/digests/26072>

**O**n May 12, 2014, *Yellowhammer News* reported that three Dothan, Ala women have been charged with 56 counts of voter fraud in connection with the city elections there last August. If convicted, they could be given a combined sentence of 560 years in prison. They are charged with creating false ballots, filling them in and casting them as absentee ballots. While Alabama finally has a strong picture Voter ID law, it will do little to control vote fraud in the absentee ballot process. More needs to be done by the legislature to curb this form of fraud in our elections.

**I**f the legacy of Barack Obama's first term is the Affordable Care Act, the legacy of his second term may be the streams of red tape rolling out from the Environmental Protection Agency to "fight" climate change. The EPA released draft regulations June 2 designed to curb carbon emissions and save America from the Great Evil of global warming. The proposals are expected to cause rising electricity prices, a threat to the nation's electrical grid, a chilling effect on the economy, and so on, while Washington argues that all its destruction is for the greater good. The regulations are so ominous that Democrats facing tough re-elections are asking the EPA to delay the rollout. That should speak at least to the bad politics at play, if not the lousy policy behind the rules.

*From the Patriot Post,* May 14, 2014 <http://patriotpost.us/digests/26072>

"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it." --Thomas Paine, *The American Crisis*, No. 4, 1777  
*As posted on Patriot Post May 13m 2014*

"Foreign influence is truly the Grecian horse to a republic. We cannot be too careful to exclude its influence." --Alexander Hamilton, *Pacificus*, No. 6, 1793  
*From the Patriot Post,* May 14, 2014 <http://patriotpost.us/digests/26072>

"To be prepared for war, is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace." --George Washington, *First Annual Message, 1790* *The Patriot Post,* June 3, 2014

‘Moderation in temper is always a virtue: but moderation in principle, is a species of vice.’ —  
*Thomas Paine, Letter Addressed tot eh Addressers of the Late Proclamation, 1792* from the *Founder’s Quote Daily,* 8/15/2013

The Gipper: "There can be no security anywhere in the free world if there is no fiscal and economic stability within the United States. Those who ask us to trade our freedom for the soup kitchen of the welfare state are architects of a policy of accommodation."  
*From the Patriot Post,* May 14, 2014 <http://patriotpost.us/digests/26072>

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## **Federal Ethanol Policy Hurts Environment and the Poor**

According to an article posted on the Cornwall Alliance website (cornwallalliance.org) on May 9, 2014, the federal Environmental Protection Agency has proposed to reduce the amount of renewable fuel (essentially ethanol mostly from corn) from 18.5 billion to 15.2 billion gallons it requires refiners to add to U. S. gasoline each year.

Cornwall Alliance says that the requirement should be ended completely and if the EPA won't do this, that Congress should. According to Cornwall studies, this ethanol requirement harms the environment and that it is bad for the poor of the world. Quoting their article ethanol is:

- Bad for the environment: Producing all kinds of pollution in growing, harvesting, and refining the crops from which it's made (mostly corn), converting millions of acres from other uses to fuel production, and even —contrary to its advocates—putting more, not less, carbon dioxide into the atmosphere per mile of travel energized than petroleum.
- Bad for cars and drivers: It corrodes fuel lines and injectors, necessitating costly repairs, and it costs more per mile than gasoline.
- Bad for the hungry poor around the world: As Suderman summarizes in the study, “A 25 gallon tank full of pure ethanol requires about 450 pounds of corn—roughly the amount of U. S. corn crops that go to ethanol production, which in effect means we're burning food for automobile fuel rather than eating it. Studies by economists at the World Bank have found that a one percent increase in world food prices correlates with a half-percent decrease in calorie consumption amongst the world's poor. When world food prices spiked between 2007 and 2008, between 20 and 40 percent of the effect was attributed to increased global reliance on biofuels.

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## **Price for Nevada dad to see state's school files on his kids: \$10,000**

Fox News reported on May 13, 2014, that when Lake Tahoe area real estate agent John Eppolito asked state education officials to see the permanent records of his four children, he was told it would cost him \$10,194. He said that while he couldn't stop them from collecting the data, he thought he had the right to see what the data was. Nevada has spent an estimated \$10 million in the development of its System of Accountability Information, but he was told that special programming would be required to provide the data to him. He told Fox News, “The data is for everyone except the parents. It's wrong.” Eppolito leads the group Stop Common Core Nevada.

## **Texas GOP Endorses 'Reparative Therapy' for Gays**

According to an Associated Press story published on June 7, 2014, the Texas Republican Party has endorsed “reparative” therapy for gays as part of their state platform.

The Texas Eagle Forum had urged the party to support psychological treatments that seek to help gay people leave the homosexual lifestyle. The change to the platform was made by the roughly 7,000 delegates to the convention.

Last fall Governor Chris Christy signed a law banning such therapies on minors, and California has a similar law. Texas delegates cheered when party leaders announced that Christie finished a distant 11th in a 2016 presidential straw poll at the convention.

Under the new plank, the Texas GOP recognizes “the legitimacy and efficacy of counseling, which offers reparative therapy and treatment for those patients seeking healing and wholeness from their homosexual lifestyle.”

Gay delegates did get a rare victory at the convention with the removal of decades-old language in the state party platform that states, “homosexuality tears at the fabric of society.” Conservatives were fighting to not only preserve it, but wanted to replace “homosexuality” with “sexual sin.”

Kudos to the Texas Republican Party and to the work of the Texas Eagle Forum's leadership on this issue.

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## Alabama becomes target of \$8.5 million campaign by Human Rights Campaign

According to an article posted by the American Family Alliance on May 22, 2014, the state of Alabama is officially a target of homosexual activists and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). HRC is committing \$8.5 million to fund full-time, a dedicated staff ready to aggressively push their homosexual agenda onto the people of Alabama.

HRC is setting up offices all across the state and placing troops on the ground. In an email to AFA, one homosexual activist bragged he has started the ball rolling by calling businesses "to harass them" simply for supporting natural marriage and religious liberty.

*Project One America* is the name of an **unprecedented campaign by HRC, outlining specific plans to pressure legislators, city leaders, business owners and even churches into abandoning biblical teachings and celebrating the homosexual lifestyle.**

According to the stated goals of the HRC, their plans include:

- Gay pride parades and rallies will occur in towns across the state.
- Media ads promoting homosexuality as a normal lifestyle will appear in newspapers and television.
- Local newspapers will be pressed to include same-sex engagement announcements.
- City officials will be heavily lobbied to:
  1. Issue proclamations recognizing "gay pride."
  2. Change laws giving special rights based on "sexual orientation."
  3. Establish hiring quotas for city employees.
  4. Legal challenges will be filed against Alabama laws protecting natural marriage and religious liberties.
  5. Colleges and Universities will be pressured to establish LGBT clubs funded by tax dollars.
  6. Gay couples will target businesses owned by Christians, as has happened in other states.
  7. Disruptions will mar public events (Last week, gay activists protested Mississippi Gov. Bryant at the Ole Miss graduation ceremony.)
  8. Name calling will escalate. Anyone who opposes them will be labeled as bigots, racists and intolerant.

We must be aware that this propaganda campaign will be coming to our towns soon. HRC supporters are a noisy lot and have no qualms about employing intimidation and bullying tactics as part of their "gay in your face" policy. Their goal is not just "tolerance" but total acceptance of their hedonistic lifestyle.

We need to remember that the homosexual agenda is one of the major fronts in the negation of Christian influence in our society and the establishment of the religion of humanism as our "state religion."

## *Surge in Illegal Children Crossing the Border*

According to an article by Stephen Dinan published in the *Washington Times* on June 5, 2014, the flood of young children pouring across the southwestern border is worse than the administration has previously acknowledged. Efforts to deal with unaccompanied minors are overwhelming the Border Patrol, distracting it from going after smugglers and other illegal immigrants, according to an internal draft memo from the agency.

According to the estimates in the draft memo, agents and officers will apprehend more than 90,000 unaccompanied children on the border this year, rising to 142,000 in 2015. There were fewer than 40,000 caught last year. This only accounts for those caught.

They are chiefly from Guatemala, Honduras or El Salvador and are usually fleeing poverty or gang violence. They have been told in their countries that if they get here, they will not be sent home. For now, the administration appears focused on managing the children when they arrive. They are required to be turned over to Health and Human Services within 72 hours, but because of the numbers and bureaucratic snafus, this is not happening. They are being housed on military bases just to have a place to put them.

This is another example of the fact that this administration cannot and does not intend to close the border.

## Study Shows Alabama Retirement Systems in Jeopardy

Eagle Forum of Alabama has long noted the need for the Alabama Legislature to address reforming the Retirement Systems of Alabama. Recently, George Mason University professor Eileen Norcross and Troy University's Manuel Johnson Center released a study showing the exact situation this system is facing. According to the study, the state is facing a funding gap of \$59 billion, almost four times as large as the state has estimated. The report says that the system could bankrupt within a decade and cause taxpayers to have to pay the difference to the extent of about \$3.4 billion a year.

The study indicates that the shortfalls are a function of the accounting methods and risky investments used by the RSA and other such retirement systems, where they base their level of liabilities on expected rates of return, which are at best a guess.

This system is a Defined Benefit Plan. Such plans are in trouble

all across the nation, as many states and cities are facing similar dangers of going into default due to the generous benefits traditionally provided to public employees.

In recent years, most private companies have changed to Defined Contribution Plans for their employee, where the company and, in most cases, the employees contribute to a 401K type retirement plan. Such plans allow companies to control the costs of funding their contributions to their employees retirement. In these cases, the employee actually owns his or her retirement plan rather than the employer.

We would encourage the legislature to reform Alabama Retirement Systems to move to a Defined Contribution plan for new and existing employees who are not yet close to retirement while maintaining the present plan for those who are close to retirement.

## School Lunch Rebellion

The makeover of school lunches has been an epic failure for most of America's school children. While the private school Obama's daughters attend reportedly serves meatball subs, gourmet ice cream, and BBQ sliders, public school children get something like this:

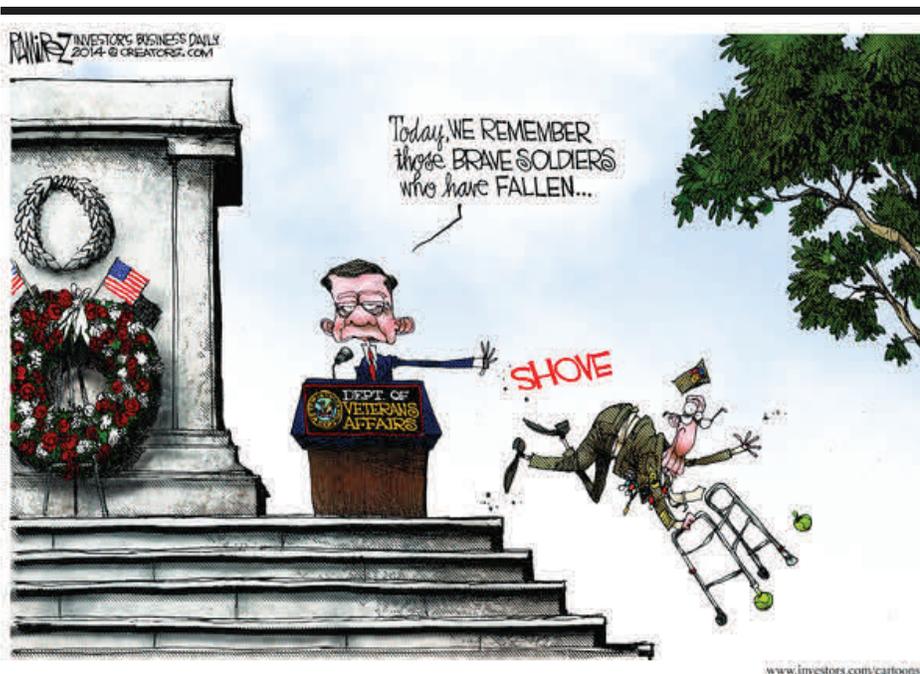


Lunches have gotten so bad that some students have started tweeting pictures like the one above with the hashtag ThanksMichelle.

The lunchtime regulations, which aim to give school children healthy options and help prevent obesity, have been an incredible drain on school budgets. 90 percent of public schools saw an increase in the price of lunch foods last year, and schools in 48 states saw an increase in waste—students simply throwing away their unappetizing lunches. Alabama Congressman Robert Aderholt (AL-04) is seeking to provide waivers while also advocating for a roll-back of the regulations next year.

After the past several years of seeing costs increase, while participation decreases, the National School Boards Association recently spoke out about the burden of the program and asked for relief from the program.

Source: Alabama Media June 2, 2014





**Eagle Forum**  
*of Alabama*

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