Georgia insight

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"She hath done what she could."

Mark 14:8a

S.2205: DREAM Act Defeated in September, may be Resuscitated Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act

The lame-duck session currently in progress continues until noon, January 3, 2011, when newly elected senators and representatives take their oath of office. Right now, Congress is under pressure to pass several extremely dangerous bills during this lame-duck session. Until the new terms begin and the new Congress convenes, liberals remain in the majority in both House and Senate and can pass pretty much what they want.

The threat of bad legislation is real. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) passed Congress during a lame-duck session. NAFTA is not a treaty, but a law never ratified by two-thirds of the U.S. Senate, although wistful supporters argue that NAFTA obligates the U.S. to allow Mexican trucks unrestricted entry into the United States.

Currently poised to be introduced again is the almost ten-year-old DREAM Act, that Congress defeated as recently as two months ago. The DREAM Act does much more than provide a path to amnesty and immediate green cards for teenage students. It, actually, applies mostly to adults up to age 35 and facilitates amnesty for other illegal aliens, including extended families, such as parents that brought the teens here illegally, PLUS various relatives they left behind.

Supporters of the DREAM Act say only 2.1 million teenagers would get green cards, but that number is expected to double or triple. If the DREAM Act passes, unlimited numbers of illegal aliens could access federal student loans, federal work-study programs and qualify for in-state tuition that public universities do not allow out-of-state students who are citizens.

DREAM Act Facts

- (a) There's <u>no limit</u> to the number of illegal aliens who would receive amnesty.
- (b) There's no cut-off date to end the application period.
- (c) There's nothing to stop future illegal aliens from receiving amnesty, too.
- (d) No alien applicant for amnesty could be deported unless a judge denies the application.
- (e) A denied application for amnesty could be processed through appellate courts for years.
- (f) Any illegal alien applying for amnesty would go to the front of the line for citizenship.
- (g) Millions of immigrants who've waited years for citizenship would be delayed even longer.

ACTION – Call or fax Senators Chambliss and Isakson, plus your congressman to vote NO on the DREAM Act.

U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss: Washington, D.C. 202 224-3521, fax 202 224-0103, toll-free 1 800 234-4208 Local numbers: Savannah 912 232-3657; fax 912 233-0115; Augusta 706 738-0302, fax 706 738-0901; Macon 478 741-1417, fax 478 741-1437; Atlanta 770 763-9090, fax 770 226-8633; and Moultrie 229 985-2112, fax 229 985-2123

U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson: Washington, D.C., 202 224-3643, fax 202 228-0724; toll-free 1 877 851-6437 Local numbers: Atlanta, 770 661-0999, fax 770 661-0768

U.S. Representatives. Call 1 877 851-6437 toll-free and ask for each office. D.C. fax numbers are as follows:
1. Jack Kingston, 202 226-2269;
2. Sanford Bishop, 202 225-2203;
3. Lynn Westmoreland, 202 225-2515;
4. Hank Johnson, 202 226-0691;
5. John Lewis, 202 225-0351;
6. Tom Price, 202 225-4656;
7. John Linder, 202 225-4696;
8. Jim Marshall, 202 225-3013;
9. Nathan Deal, 202 225-8272;
10. Paul Broun, 202 226-0776;
11. Phil Gingrey, 202 225-2944;
12. John Barrow, 202 225-3377;
13. David Scott, 202 225-4628 (A written note by fax is a great way to communicate.)
SPECIAL: Log on to send a fax online free-of-charge, offered by the conservative organization, NumbersUSA.

Critical for Lame-Duck Session: Express Your Opinion

So much to do! So little time to do it! But do it we must!

In these last months of 2010, will Congress vote to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law? Will illegal aliens be rewarded for breaking U.S. immigration laws? Will elected officials reject the imminent plunge into socialism? Will taxpayers be treated as independent individuals or human resources born to serve government? Will the military be forced to implement harmful social experiments? Will abortions be performed on all U.S. military bases? Before the dawn of 2011, Congress will answer these questions and more, as they consider these issues:

- **Aliens.** Will the DREAM Act pass and give illegal aliens all the benefits of U.S. citizenship? **ACTION**¹ – About passage of the DREAM Act, ask U.S. Senators and Representatives to vote NO.
- **Taxes.** (a) Will Congress increase taxes by letting the Bush tax cuts expire December 31st? (b) Will Congress permanently repeal the death tax? Unless it's permanently repealed, the death tax will rise from the present 0% to 55%.
 - ACTION (a) About making the Bush tax cuts permanent, ask U.S. Senators and Representatives to vote YES. (b) About permanently repealing the death tax, ask U.S. Senators and Representatives to vote YES.
- **Military.** Will Congress repeal the 1993 law that prohibits homosexuals from openly serving in the military? The law is commonly known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

ACTION - About repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," ask U.S. Senators and Representatives to vote NO.

Gambling. Will Congress pass a bill to legalize Internet gambling? Reportedly, Senator Reid plans to attach an Internet gambling authorization bill to must-pass legislation. Also, it's reported that Harrah's – the largest gaming company in the world – inappropriately coordinated with Reid's re-election campaign with an expected pay-back of forcing such legislation through during the lame-duck session.

ACTION – About legalizing Internet gambling, ask U.S. Senators and Representatives to vote NO.

Treaty. Ratification of the New START treaty during this lame-duck session would set a dangerous precedent. Eagle Forum was among 33 conservative groups who joined in a memo outlining their many concerns with the New START treaty and urging Congress to refrain from considering it during the lame-duck session. In addition to that memo, 13 former U.S. Senators sent a letter to Senate Leaders Harry Reid and Mitch McConnell, urging them NOT to consider the treaty during the lame-duck session.

ACTION – About ratifying the New START treaty, ask U.S. Senators to vote NO.

Abortion. Will Congress yield to pressure and overturn the prohibition on performing abortions on U.S. military bases?

ACTION - About legalizing abortion on all military bases, ask U.S. Senators and Representatives to vote NO.

Judges. Will judicial nominees be confirmed during the lame-duck session? Eagle Forum joined with numerous conservative groups to sign a letter urging the Senate NOT to confirm judicial nominees during the lame-duck session. Their concern was prompted by President Obama's numerous re-nominations of individuals the Senate had previously failed to confirm, after full consideration of their records.

ACTION – About confirming judicial appointees during the lame-duck session, ask U.S. Senators to vote NO.

¹ For contact numbers of Georgia's U.S. Senators and Representatives, please refer to the bottom of page one. Georgia Insight December 2010

Christmas Inside the Schoolhouse Constitutional, But a Continual Battle

Research 'way back to the constitution and Congress reveals that public education originated with the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and was based on the premise that religion, morality and knowledge are necessary for good government. Two years later in accord with the Northwest Ordinance, Congress passed a law to provide public lands and territories where schools could be located. In that law, Congress stated that the happiness of mankind, schools and the means for learning would forever be encouraged <u>in the name of God</u>. Although that was the original reason public schools were established, that's not how public schools operate today.

Students are not allowed to exchange Christmas gifts or cards or put up nativity scenes or sing Christmas carols at many public schools and some won't refer to December 25th as a holiday, since it means "holy day." Even red and green colors may be banned as "Christmas colors."

Although it was never publicized in 1996, Lake Windward Elementary School in Fulton County gave students calendars that didn't designate December 25th as Christmas, but identified it as Clara Barton's birthday. That calendar proclaimed December 23rd as the Feast of Radishes, December 16th as Beethoven's birthday, December 12th as Poinsettia Day and December 5th as Bathtub Party Day (whatever that is), with no mention of the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world. That occurred in Georgia, but the same thing was happening on a national level.

The 1998 calendar published by the U.S. Capitol Historical Society acknowledged Christmas on December 25th, after leaving it out in 1997. In 1999 the Society's calendar omitted Christmas again, while listing Passover on April 1st, Good Friday on April 2nd and Easter on April 4th – a totally unreasonable thing to do. There's no Good Friday or Easter without the <u>birth</u> of Jesus.

In a 2009 *Report from the Capitol*, the Baptist Joint Committee explained the relationship of the First Amendment to education, reminding us that students may pray at school, but the prayer must be voluntary, student-initiated and not disruptive. Students may read Scripture and make religious comments in class, if their comments are relevant to the subject under discussion. And students may share their faith at school, if they don't disrupt a classroom or harass others.

The Bible is <u>not banned</u> in public schools, but it can't be endorsed as a religious text. Religious messages on clothing <u>are</u> permitted if other messages are allowed. If a school dress code prohibits <u>any</u> words on <u>any</u> clothing, religious words would be prohibited, as well. But if <u>any</u> words or symbols <u>are</u> allowed, religious words and symbols <u>must</u> be allowed, too.

Prayer around a flagpole or other religious activity before or after school <u>is</u> constitutional, <u>if</u> it's student-initiated. If outside groups have access to school grounds, religious groups must have access, but school personnel cannot encourage or discourage participation in religious groups or religious events. Public schools may teach about all religions in courses such as history, social studies and comparative religion. But to avoid a distortion of facts, the <u>role of religion</u> must be included in historical events such as the Crusades and the Holocaust. Students do not lose their religious freedom at the school bus stop or on the school bus or when they step onto school property or when they enter the school building or go to a ballgame or other activity. Religious freedom is precious to all of us, regardless of age, and it's certainly worth preserving.

ACTION – For anyone trying NOT to offend, please say, "Merry Christmas," because politically correct substitutes are very offensive to a majority of Americans, including me!

Christmas at the White House

In 1979 *President Jimmy Carter* included this paragraph in his brief Christmas message: "At this time of traditional joy and family festivity, as we join in thanking God for His blessings to us as a nation and as individuals, we ask that you offer a special prayer for the Americans who are being held hostage in Iran and for their families. We remember also the plight of all people, whatever their nationality, who suffer from injustice, oppression, hunger, war, or terrorism."

On December 18, 1980, President Carter lit his final National Christmas Tree, but left the lights on only 417 seconds, a second for each day Americans had been held hostage in Iran.

When *President Ronald Reagan* lit the National Christmas Tree in 1988, he said, "The themes of Christmas and of coming home for the holidays have long been intertwined in song and story. There is a profound irony and lesson in this, because Christmas celebrates the coming of a Savior Who was born without a home. There was no room at the inn for the Holy Family. Weary of travel, a young Mary close to childbirth and her carpenter husband Joseph found but the rude shelter of a stable. There was born the King of Kings, the Prince of Peace – an event on which all history would turn. ...[During His public ministry] He said, 'The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath no where to lay his head.' From His very infancy, on, our Redeemer was reminding us that from then on we would never lack a home in Him."

In 1989 *President George H. W. Bush* and First Lady Barbara was photographed as they rang the Salvation Army bell and greeted all who dropped money into the Christmas kettle. President Bush ended his national greeting with these words, "At Christmas, we, too, rejoice in the mystery of God's love for us – love revealed through the gift of Christ's birth."

At the lighting of the National Christmas Tree in 1996 *President Bill Clinton* reminded the nation of the birth of the Son of God, the King of Kings, Who came among us as servant and Savior. Then, he concluded his greeting with, "Merry Christmas, and God bless you."

In 2007 *President Georgia W. Bush* and First Lady Laura cited the birth of Jesus as God incarnate and explained, "At Christmastime, Christians celebrate God's love revealed to the world through Christ. And the message of Jesus is one that all Americans can embrace this holiday season.... Laura joins me in wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God's blessings of peace be upon us and upon the world."

In his lengthy Christmas greeting of 2009, President Barack Obama mentioned the birth of Jesus in these sentences, "But even in these tough times, there's still so much to celebrate this Christmas. A message of peace and brotherhood that continues to inspire more than 2,000 years after Jesus' birth."



The Editor: Many U.S. presidents have greeted us at Christmas by paying homage to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who is our Redeemer, Who was born to die on the cross for our sins. Today, I say to you, "Merry Christmas!" To Him I say, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

