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The International Baccalaureate Program: “Developing Citizens of the World”

By MerryLynn Gerstenschlager, Texas Eagle Forum Vice-President

Ten years have passed since the Texas legislature passed Senate Bill 111 into law. The sole purpose of S.B. 111 was to allow students who complete the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program to receive college credit, just as do those students who achieve a certain grade on Advanced Placement exams.

According to the bill analysis back then, “The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma program is a rigorous academic curriculum offered in schools across the state....”

In the past, the Education Reporter, national Eagle Forum’s monthly newsletter, has reported extensively about the pitfalls of the IB that is run by a non-governmental organization called the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). The IBO is a non-profit organization that has schools all over the world.

Unfortunately, Texas Eagle Forum was unsuccessful in defeating the passage of S.B. 111 back in 2005. According to the IB website, as of 2013 there were 146 schools in Texas that

Continued on Page 2

In This Issue

The International Baccalaureate Program: “Developing Citizens of the World” 1

Immigration Handbook for Republicans 3

Cliff Notes 4

Progress Through Preservation of Traditional Values

The International Baccalaureate Program: “Developing Citizens of the World”

Continued from Page 1

“What is happening in our classrooms where students would want to spend their last times together centered on a philosophy that has killed and enslaved millions of people worldwide?”

have the International Baccalaureate in at least one of the three levels offered: Primary School, Middle School, or High School. The IB schools are located in 44 different cities throughout Texas, with the highest concentration in Houston, which has 17. About ten percent are private schools.

The IBO was organized in 1968 by European diplomats who wanted a common undergraduate program so that their children would be able to move from country to country and readily fit into the educational program in their new home country. Then, in 1996, the IBO entered a partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and created what they call an “international education system.”

When legislators were pushing to promote S.B. 111 in 2005, the big selling point of the IB was that it was an “international education.” Most interesting was that no one could actually define the term. The only thing that was clear was that this buzzword seemed to impress legislators and convinced them that this was superior to what was taught in traditional Texas public school classrooms at the time.

On April 5, 2015, the IBO website posted the following:

“The International Baccalaureate chooses to define ‘international education’ according to the following criteria:

- Developing citizens of the world in relation to culture, language and learning to live together
- Building and reinforcing students’ sense of identity and cultural awareness
- Fostering students’ recognition and development of universal human values

- Stimulating curiosity and inquiry in order to foster a spirit of discovery and enjoyment of learning
- Equipping students with the skills to learn and acquire knowledge, individually or collaboratively, and to apply these skills and knowledge accordingly across a broad range of areas
- Providing international content while responding to local requirements and interests
- Encouraging diversity and flexibility in teaching methods
- Providing appropriate forms of assessment and international benchmarking”

One has to wonder just what actually goes on in classrooms where an “international education” is at the core of their learning. Take, for example, the seniors at the Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School in Albuquerque, New Mexico (a taxpayer-funded IB charter school for grades 6-12), who recently voted online to call their prom “prom-munism.” Yes, the students voted to have communism as the theme for their prom.

After KRQE television in Albuquerque reported this story, a firestorm broke out nationwide. In fairness to the students, not all of them thought the theme was appropriate. Senior Sarah Zachary told KRQE that she had voted for “A Night at the Reef,” because the prom is expected to be held at an aquarium. She also said, “We have a lot of jokesters in our grade... and a lot of them are really intense with politics.” Another student wrote, “I hope Cottonwood would realize the seriousness of having a very powerful and destructive idea as the theme for a prom.”

KRQE also reported that Sam Obenshain, executive director at Cottonwood stated, “Our students are in the International Baccalaureate program, so they are very academically focused.” He went on to say, “One of the classes they enjoy the most is a world history class.” A followup story reported that the theme of their prom has changed to a “Prom-theme Prom.” Students interviewed stated that they just want a fun evening.

While the story has a positive ending, remember how this story began. What is happening in our classrooms where students would want to spend one of their last times together centered on a philosophy that has killed and enslaved millions of people worldwide? Could the IB program in an American public school classroom be at the heart of America’s continuing move to the left?

What is wrong with an American education, where our kids learn about American exceptionalism and the things that have made America a shining city on a hill? What could have possibly happened in that IB classroom that skewed such bright minds so much that they lost their way?

Maybe Texas should reconsider this push for an international education through the International Baccalaureate program.

Immigration Handbook for Republicans

by Phyllis Schlafly,
CEO and Founder of Eagle Forum

Republicans in 2014 won the biggest majority in Congress they've had since the 1930s, so the grassroots expect them to deliver the fruits of victory. The best guide for action is the "Immigration Handbook for the New Republican Majority" by Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL).

Sessions' report asks the fundamental question: "What sense does it make to continue legally importing millions of low-wage workers to fill jobs while sustaining millions of current residents on welfare?" Republicans can't win in 2016 without tapping into that unrepresented American constituency.

President Obama has issued orders granting work permits to five million illegal aliens, along with Social Security, Medicare, and free tax credits, all of which take jobs and benefits from struggling Americans. Obama simply ignored or voided existing immigration laws in order to implement his own policies by measures that Congress has repeatedly and explicitly rejected.

Obama knew very well that he was directly opposing the wishes of the majority of Americans. Polls were unequivocal; more than 3 in 4 voters cited immigration as an important factor in their 2014 vote; they opposed his plans for amnesty, and demanded that U.S. workers be given priority for jobs.

Obama several times admitted that only an emperor could issue such edicts. Nevertheless, we are now living under imperial decrees that defy the will of the people, the Constitution that Obama swore an oath to obey, and the laws that Congress passed.

Senator Sessions' Handbook declares emphatically that Congress has the power to stop Obama's amnesty by denying funds for its implementation. The U.S. House has already passed a bill that would do this and forwarded it to the Senate.

There are many other bills that Congress should pass to checkmate Obama's imperial, unauthorized, and illegal actions to give preference to illegal aliens, rather than to American citizens, regarding jobs and taxpayer-paid benefits.

Here are a few examples of laws Congress should immediately pass: require all employers to use E-Verify, end catch-and-release, enforce mandatory repatriation for unaccompanied alien minors (instead of loading them into our public schools), end asylum forgeries (remember, the Boston bombers were dishonest asylum seekers, yet were admitted and given welfare handouts), and stop giving generous welfare to illegal aliens. Any immigration "reform" that fails to include these elements will create a slush fund for the Obama Administration to resettle illegals throughout the U.S.

Obama's attitude toward immigration was summed up by his former ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) Director, John Sandweg: "If you're a run-of-the-mill immigrant here illegally, your odds of getting deported are close to zero."

Senator Sessions commented, "anyone in the world who manages to get into the interior of the United States—by any means, including overstaying a visa—is free to live, work, and claim benefits in the United States at Americans' expense."

Meanwhile, two more states have joined the coalition of states (now totaling 26) that are suing over Obama's executive actions on immigration. This lawsuit was filed by Greg Abbott, then Texas Attorney General and now Governor of Texas.

The Sessions Handbook quotes U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services union president Kenneth Palinkas as warning us: "The 9/11 hijackers got into the U.S. on visas and now, 13 years later, we have around 5 million immigrants in the United States who overstayed their visas, many from high-risk regions in the Middle East." Congress should protect Americans from some of these problems by suspending visas to countries with high overstay rates or those that won't accept back their own criminals.

The Sessions Handbook makes another scary point that is not generally known. "Each year, the U.S. admits one million largely lesser-skilled permanent immigrants to the United States, who receive green cards, lifetime work authorization, all federal benefits, access to most federal welfare, and the ability to apply for citizenship and vote."

"...Congress has the power to stop Obama's amnesty by denying funds for its implementation."

And here's the kicker: "From 2000 to 2014, when 14 million new permanent legal immigrants were admitted to the U.S. in addition to the illegal immigration flow, all net employment gains went to immigrant workers. The total number of working age U.S.-born Americans without jobs now stands at 58 million." Senator Sessions' Handbook ends with a couple of important questions: "Should American immigration laws serve the just interests of our country and our citizens? And do those citizens have the right to expect and demand that the laws passed by their elected representatives be enforced? If we believe the answers to these questions are Yes, then we have no choice but to fight, and to win."

WHAT YOU CAN DO: TEF President Cathie Adams used Senator Jeff Sessions booklet for a panel discussion at South By Southwest in Austin. She has a new "Immigration" PowerPoint presentation for interested groups. To schedule a presentation, please call Cathie at 972-523-8551.



Eagle Cliff Notes

Houston Judge Catering to His LGBT Base

When Houston's Mayor Annise Parker pushed through an "anti-discrimination" ordinance providing special rights and benefits for homosexuals and transgendered individuals, a coalition of pastors and leaders launched a petition drive that garnered more than 50,000 signatures. The petition, which sought to put the ordinance before the city's voters, only needed 17,269 signatures to be successful. However, then-City Attorney David Feldman kicked out enough signatures to disqualify the election, spurring petition backers to sue. Last week, Judge Robert Schaffer ruled proponents were a little over 500 signatures short of the number needed. Pastor Dave Welch of the Texas Pastors Council admits being disappointed but "not entirely surprised" by Schaffer's decision. According to the pastor, Judge Schaffer was "endorsed and supported by the LGBT political caucus" when elected to the bench. Attorneys for the petition to repeal the law say they will file before the Court of Appeals and may try to expedite it by going directly to the state Supreme Court.

SOURCE: onenewsnow.com

Enormous Impact of Legal Immigration on U.S.

The Center for Immigration Studies has based a new analysis on Census Bureau projections and found that by 2023 immigrants will account for more than one in seven U.S. residents (51 million)—the largest share ever recorded in American history. Driven largely by *legal* immigration, the immigrant population will grow to nearly one in five U.S. residents (78 million) by 2060. The total U.S. population will grow to almost 417 million by 2060—108 million more than in 2010. "These numbers have important implications for workers, schools, infrastructure, congestion, and the environment," observed Steven Camarota, the Center's Director of Research. "Yet there has been almost no national debate about bringing in so many people legally each year, which is the primary factor driving these numbers."

SOURCE: Center For Immigration Studies

The Abortion Spa?

A "new spa-like abortion clinic" opened up in a Washington, D.C. suburb. *The Washington Post* writes that this facility is trying to "de-stigmatize" abortion. Clients will be greeted with "warm teas" and "comfortable robes." The design is also "another striking aspect." With wood floors and "a natural wood tone on the walls," the abortion clinic "recalls high-end salons." So, taking a life should be as carefree and relaxing as getting your nails done or having your hair colored. The good news is that this latest tactic by the pro-abortion Left is a sign of desperation. It is a direct response to the pro-life community gaining momentum in public opinion and in state legislatures across the country. When it comes to the sanctity of life, we are winning hearts and minds!

SOURCE: Gary Bauer, American Values

Red Light District Goes Green

Severe acne, UFOs, cougar attacks—those are just three of the things that scientists are pinning on global warming. Now, Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA) added another to the list: prostitution. She is actually suggesting that if the government doesn't address climate change, more women will be forced to sell themselves for sex. In a resolution, she insisted (with a straight face) that global warming creates "conflict" and "instability" in the world, which, she claims, leads to prostitution. Of course, Rep. Lee isn't the first to suggest a link between the climate and prostitution. It is one of the many things the Left blames on global warning. You can't make this stuff up—unless, apparently, you are a liberal!

SOURCE: Tony Perkins' Washington Update

NOTE: To schedule a presentation on the "Global Warming HOAX," call 972-523-8551.

Quote of the Month

"America has been blessed by God more than any nation on the face of this earth. When our country was birthed, its foundations and laws were based on biblical laws and principles. We used to be 'one nation under God,' now we're a nation that has turned its back on God. History shows that when nations do this, their end is near."

Rev. Franklin Graham

Famous American Quote

"In questions of power, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution."

Thomas Jefferson

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