



March 2, 2023

Dear AACCS State Leaders,

I wanted to share with you one of the greatest moments of our AACCS Youth Legislative Training Conference (YLTC) last summer. During our congressional briefing in the U.S. Capitol, organized for just our YLTC group, I was standing in the back of the room listening to Rep. Bob Good (VA) as he shared his testimony with the attendees. As a sincere Christian, he challenged students to stand boldly for what is right and follow the Lord's leading in their lives. His comments were a humble expression of an authentic witness—a rare moment of transparent testimony from a sitting member of Congress. What an uplifting and encouraging message to our young people!

However, **what most moved me during Congressman Good's presentation was the person standing next to me in the back of the room—the young man serving as Rep. Good's senior legislative assistant, Peter Holland.** Peter attended the YLTC in 2013, and it was during that week that the Lord sparked in his heart a desire to serve the Lord in the political realm. In his words, ***"God used it in my life to pique my interest in politics. It planted the seeds for what now is a career on Capitol Hill that I'm really enjoying, serving, and helping write legislation for my member of Congress."***

As he and I stood in the back of that Congressional briefing, **the fact that he was staffing his boss at an event that had changed his life was not lost on him.** He kept saying, *"This is so cool."* Indeed, it was cool for me, too.

The opportunity to see the fruit of our YLTC ministry through Peter's life was not only a **gift but also a challenge** to continue this great work. **Your generous contributions** as state associations **are part of this great work**, and **many young adults, like Peter, are a testimony to the investment you have made.** So many of our YLTC alumni are making a difference in the arena where God has placed them, committed to standing on principle and protecting our freedom. This includes service in their state capitols, as attorneys, as teachers and ministers, and in other important public work and ministry.

The mission of YLTC is to equip high school students to be future strong leaders in our country by providing training sessions and activities in Washington, D.C., which will enhance their understanding of the political system as well as deepen their commitment to character and biblical integrity in leadership. The week-long conference includes a mock senate, workshops by leading conservative leaders, tours of historical sites in Washington, D.C., and devotions to instill principles of biblical leadership and integrity. Additionally, time is set aside for a special "Day on the Hill" which includes individual meetings between the students and their representatives and senators and a special congressional briefing designed just for the YLTC students.

The opportunities this conference offers are indeed exceptional. As you know, the cost for putting on a conference like this is also great. Each year, the Lord has been gracious to provide the funds for us through private donors, corporate sponsorships, and gifts from state associations. As we endeavor to

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continue to grow our donor base, **we are asking that each state association consider sponsoring at least two students. The cost per student is \$500.**

You may notice that this cost per student is an increase from previous years; this is due to the increased costs of inflation. We have always **endeavored to keep the cost low**, and for over 15 years, we have not had an increase in our fees. Unfortunately, the **drastically rising costs** we have experienced over the last three years have forced us to raise our per-student estimate. However, this is still **significantly lower** than the average mock congress or student leadership programs, which typically cost from \$1,000 to \$1,800 per student. We have been blessed with some unique advantages that enable us to provide an excellent program while keeping the costs well below average.

No other Christian school organization has a program just like ours. **Our goal is to provide full scholarships for each student so that no student must pass up this once-in-a-lifetime experience due to finances.**

We are encouraged to see the majority of our Christian schools growing in number, despite the rising inflation. This points to a desire of parents for their children to receive a strong education grounded in truth. **We believe God is offering hope for our country through the ministries of our Christian schools that are educating students with the truth which stems from a biblical foundation.** The AACCS is committed to supporting our schools in this important task, and the YLTC is one of the programs we offer to aid in this task.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of how your state association could be involved in supporting this great program. **We are grateful for any amount that your association may be able to contribute**, whether \$100, or \$500 covering one student, or \$1,000 for scholarships for two. Contributions can be sent to our AACCS National Office (3323 Jenkins Rd, Chattanooga, TN, 37421) and marked for the YLTC.

We are already looking forward to our YLTC 2023 and anticipating the students that the Lord will send our way. While many young people are falling prey to the false promises of socialism and the lies of racist and immoral ideology, **it is vital that we continue this program of preparation for Christian young people and train them in the truths of biblical leadership, our nation's history, and the importance of freedom.**

We are grateful for your consideration of support for the YLTC. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing many of your students in Washington, D.C. this summer!

Sincerely,



Maureen Van Den Berg