



# Ethical Action Report



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## **‘Tis the Season: Give Thanks by Giving Back to Camp Linden and the Rose L. Walker Fund of the National Service Conference of the American Ethical Union**

This winter holiday season, give thanks by giving back. Donate to social justice causes.

### **BACKGROUND**

The winter holidays are traditionally a time of giving thanks and of giving presents. This season do both by giving back in the form of a donation. There's no better way to express our values than by giving to causes that we believe in.

The American Ethical Union supports several charitable endeavors. Those include the beautiful **Camp Linden**, a camp for inner city children which is owned and operated by the Ethical

Humanist Society of Philadelphia. The AEU is trying to raise funds to support this camp for low income inner city children. We also strive to raise funds to broaden the capacity of Camp Linden to provide overnight accommodations to become a retreat center available to nonprofit groups for charitable causes. With overnight facilities, the AEU and other nontheistic groups could host conferences on Camp Linden's beautiful 51 acres.

The American Ethical Union is also raising funds for the **Rose L. Walker Fund of the** National Service Conference of the American Ethical Union at the United Nations. This special fund is designed to provide resources for **disaster recovery and emergency relief** in circumstances of unforeseen national and/or international catastrophe. Donations to both causes may be specified at (<http://www.aeu.org/index.php?case=donate>). As part of our Ethical Action outreach, we also encourage donations to Doctors without Borders (<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/splash.cfm>), Amnesty International (<http://www.amnesty.org/>) and Oxfam International (<http://www.oxfam.org/en>).

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### **Protect Choice: Help Defeat the Stupak-Pitts Amendment!**

Write a letter to your senators demanding that reproductive choice not be curtailed in the Senate Healthcare Reform Bill.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Healthcare reform legislation passed by the House of Representatives included an amendment that severely curtails a woman's right to choose. Called the Stupak-Pitts amendment, the measure would prohibit private insurance companies that participate in the new health care system from offering abortion coverage to women—even when personal, private funds are used for the procedure.

Reports indicate that a version of the Stupak-Pitts Amendment may be attached to the Senate bill. If such an amendment is passed out of the Senate, it will be very difficult to remove it from the final conference bill and the measure will become law. Therefore, it's vital that no such amendment is attached to any Senate version of healthcare reform--and if one is, that it be removed before the final bill is sent to conference committee.

Call your senators today and demand that they not support any such amendment that would curtail a woman's right to choose.

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### **Protect Civil Liberties: Ask Attorney General Eric Holder to Try All Terror Suspects in Federal Civilian Courts**

Contact Attorney General Eric Holder and demand that the United States government try all terror suspects in established federal courts rather than military tribunals.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Last month, Attorney General Eric Holder made headlines by announcing that a group of Guantanamo detainees will be prosecuted in federal court rather than in military commissions. This includes those defendants charged with participating in 9/11 attacks.

Contrary to arguments that trying the detainees in federal court will offer terrorists a platform to air their views, using the federal court system is the only way to uphold American values of fairness and due process. More than 300 terrorists have already been successfully prosecuted in civilian courts and terrorists would have no more of a platform than they would in military proceedings. Please contact AG Eric Holder and thank him for upholding the rule of law. Also urge him to try all Guantanamo cases in our tried and true federal courts.

## **Separation of Church and State: Support the Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2009 (H.R. 2662)**

Please contact your representative in Congress and ask them to support the Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2009 (H.R. 2662), which would help protect nontheists from harassment and discrimination at school.

### **BACKGROUND**

School should always be a place of learning—never a place of intimidation and harassment. Yet, students who don't believe in God are sometimes made the target of bullying and attacks by their fellow students and even by their teachers. Often the problems nontheist students face are due to their objection to church/state separation violations in school or due to their refusal to say the words "under God" when reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

To curb such harassment, it's important for schools to engender tolerance for students of all faith and no faith. The Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2009 would help create such an atmosphere. The act would require that states use grants for safe and drug-free schools to collect and report information on bullying and harassment of nontheist students. It would also require that subgrants be used to prevent such behavior. Please contact your representative in Congress and ask them to support the Safe Schools Improvement Act. !

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## *Contacting Elected Officials*

### **White House**

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The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
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President Barack Obama: [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

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### **Congress**

#### *Mailing Address*

United States Senate  
*Or*  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

#### *Phone Number*

Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

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Visit [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) or [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) to use your representatives' e-mail contact forms.

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