

names and addresses of state and local officials on the web.

How to Write a Letter to the Editor or a Blog Post

Another powerful way to speak out on current issues is to write a letter to the editor or blog post. Often this is the only way to get a Christian viewpoint into print.



Letters to the editor and blogs are well read. You can have a lasting impact in both your community and the nation. Here are

some tips that will help when you write:

Follow the printed guidelines of the newspaper/newsmagazine or the blog: Most publications will not print letters longer than 250 words. Keep in mind that the editor may cut some of your letter. State your point as briefly as possible.

Avoid hysteria and name calling: If you write a letter in the heat of anger, you may be red-faced when you see it in print.

Cover only one topic: Make your letter or blog simple and direct and be sure of your facts. Use short quotes to support your viewpoint. Also, if you are writing in response to a specific article you read in the newspaper, magazine or blog be sure to note it. Editors are more likely to print those letters that refer to articles from their publication.

If writing a letter to the editor, sign your name and give your phone number: Most editors refuse to publish anonymous letters and will usually call to verify that you are the author

of the letter. Some may even require your address.

Write while the issue is hot: Your letter/blog will have the greatest impact if you respond within one or two days.

Becoming Part of CWA

Another way you can have an impact is to become a part of the work that CWA is doing. Consider becoming a member of CWA by making a donation of \$25 or more.

“Project 535”

One of CWA’s most effective programs is “Project 535,” which is designed to train people to work directly with their Members of Congress. This involves keeping in touch with the Member’s staff in both Washington and the state. CWA members who live in, or are able to travel to the Washington, D.C. area, serve as volunteer lobbyist. They join in monthly lobbying projects and distribute information to the congressional offices before key votes. For more information on “Project 535” go to <http://www.cwalac.org/535.shtml>.

Leadership Opportunities

CWA also provides opportunities for involvement on the state and local levels. These volunteer positions include:

State or Area Director - represents CWA and coordinates activities within her area or state.



Steering Committee - serves as a support network

for the State Director. Each member performs a specific function such as communications, record keeping or legislative activity.



Prayer/Action Chapter Leader - plans and oversees Prayer/Action chapter meetings where concerned Americans gather regularly to pray for state and national leaders and the issues they face – and then take action. Leading a high school or college chapter is a great way for young adults to have an impact in their state and nation.

Home Team Captain - communicates via e-mail, Facebook and Twitter to generate a quick response to legislative developments. Whatever the issue, you can have an impact in your community. The opportunities are numerous.

If you would like to join CWA in the work being done in your state, call the national office at 800-458-8797, ext. 1073.

You have been presented with a lot of exciting opportunities and information. The first thing you need to do is sign up now for the CWA Legislative Action Committee E-Alerts. You can do that at ConcernedWomen.org.

Don’t delay, become a laptop lobbyist today!



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Washington, D.C. 20005

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ConcernedWomen.org

How to Lobby From Your Laptop



“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:12 (NKJV)

A Guide to Making Your Voice Heard as a Young Adult for Your Family, Community, State and Nation

Throughout history God has used young people to revolutionize the world! He worked through Esther to save a nation, Daniel to advise a king, Joshua to lead his chosen people into the promise land, and David to lead the nation. These were all young people with one thing in common --they were men and women of prayer and action.

Since 1979, Concerned Women for America (CWA) has been working to protect and promote Biblical values among all citizens through prayer and action.

You are in a strategic position "for such a time as this." You can help return this nation to sound moral principles. You have the opportunity to change tomorrow. How? First by praying to Jesus Christ on behalf of our country, and then by lobbying from your laptop, cell phone, I-Pod, or even your I-Pad.

To lobby simply means to promote or secure the passage of legislation by influencing public officials. Many special interest groups have full-time lobbyists in Washington, D.C. They are paid to present that group's views to senators and representatives and to ask for their votes on key legislation.

But there is no more influential lobbyist to a senator or representative than the people back home. So right from your own mobile device, you, too, can be a lobbyist—and it is as easy as e-mailing, texting or calling your local, state and national government officials. You can have a tremendous influence on our nation if you will only take the time to make your voice heard.

Edmund Burke once said, "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." If liberal leaders and activists do not speak for you and your generation on important issues like abortion, then you must speak up for yourself. A recent poll found that 71 percent of young people think abortion is immoral. Have you told your legislator yet? Let's look at how easy it really is.

As a laptop lobbyist, it is important that you are well informed in order to be effective. Simply by reading local blogs, Facebook posts, and other news publications, you will be able to educate yourself on many of the critical issues of the day.

Another way for you to stay informed and to know when to take action is to sign up for the CWA Legislative Action Committee E-Alerts. You can sign up for the E-Alerts at Concerned Women.org. The E-Alert lets you know about current issues that need your quick response. It will give you all the information you need to respond.

While the E-Alert will keep you informed about urgent issues, CWA posts on Facebook, tweets up-to-the-minute information and posts articles



regularly to ConcernedWomen.org. The CWA website is filled with researched articles on issues, updated reports on legislation before Congress, as well as articles by CWA's top policy experts. Their updates on key issues are vital to your generation. CWA also offers a variety of papers, brochures, pamphlets and books to help keep you educated on the issues. Use these publications as source materials. To enhance your communication with your legislator, you may want to include or link

to copies of articles that support your position.

How to Communicate With Your Legislators

With these tools, you will be well educated and able to give an informed opinion. Then it is up to you to express your opinion to your legislator via text, e-mail or a phone call. Now you are a laptop lobbyist!

Your communication with your legislators is very significant. Many legislators believe when you express your opinion you are expressing the views of at least 1,000 people who did not take the time to express their opinion. Your legislator may not personally see your communication. But you can be sure that a legislative assistant is carefully studying all communication they receive to learn what people back home are thinking. Here are a few tips to remember:

Be Informed: Get your facts straight. Quote experts on the topic or link to actual news articles to help prove your point. Make sure your sources are credible. Blogs and email messages can be misleading or even blatantly false. Use credible sources. You can be sure that every post on the CWA website has been researched for reliability.

Be Specific: State the specific issue that concerns you and, if possible, include the bill number and/or title.

Be Polite: You should be firm, but courteous. Anger and sarcasm will not win any points with your reader.

Be Original: What you write yourself is most effective. But if you have time only to forward information or a petition, do that.

Ask for an Answer: You'll be surprised how fast you'll get a letter back! Ask your legislator to state his views on the issue and ask how he

intends to vote.

Be Brief: Cover only one topic and try to keep your communication as brief as possible.

Say Thanks: Most people write only when they disagree with the way their legislator votes. It's important to let him know you appreciate a favorable vote, too. Legislators appreciate encouragement!

Don't Preach: When writing about a piece of legislation, stay on topic. If you want to present the Gospel, do that in a separate letter.

When to Write:

Just before a key vote, your legislator will be contacted by a lot of people. Therefore, it is best to communicate your view as

soon as you learn about the legislation as it should get more attention at that time. And then, if at all possible, follow up right before the vote.

How to Address Your Letters: Use the addresses below when you write your Members of Congress:

The Honorable (first and last name)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable (first and last name)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Use the salutation "Dear Senator (last name)" or "Dear Representative (last name)." You will find the names and addresses of your Members of Congress at <http://www.cwalac.org> under "Elected Officials," and you can find the

