

Dear CWA Friends,

SB128, sponsored by Sen. Buhl, is a bad bill that would require the Human Rights Commission to meet annually. This Commission has not met since June 2008. According to testimony by the Department of Labor (DOL), this Commission is not necessary because the DOL has been conducting investigations in a more cost-effective manner. This Commission should not meet “just to meet,” thus it serves no current purpose.

SB128 was heard in the Senate Health and Human Services this morning. Sen. Krause offered an amendment that would abolish the Commission. Because of the lateness of the hour, action on this good amendment was deferred to Wednesday, February 2.

ACTION: Members of the Senate HHS Committee can be found at:

<http://legis.state.sd.us/sessions/2011/CommitteeMembers.aspx?Committee=6>

If your senator is on this committee, please contact him/her and request that he/she support the amendment to abolish the Commission on Human Rights.

We are pleased to report that **HB1142**, known as the “Alienation of Affection” bill, was killed in House Judiciary Committee today by a vote of 7-5. Cindy testified in opposition. HB1142 would have repealed a good 1877 law that protects a spouse when adultery is committed. HB1142 would have eliminated from our statutes this one tool that the legal profession has at its disposal in those rare instances when it may be necessary to utilize it to assist an “injured” spouse. Our laws need to reflect the fact that there are consequences when adultery is committed and marriages are undermined.

The protection of marriage is a CWA core issue. The institution of marriage must not be unduly undermined. The ability of an abandoned spouse to have legal recourse regarding the person who intervened to destroy their marriage is an essential right. Our current “alienation of affection” statute is not a frivolous law.

Motion was made to defer the bill to the 41st legislative day which would kill the bill. We wanted a YES vote. View the vote:

<http://legis.state.sd.us/sessions/2011/RollCall.aspx?Vote=444>

SCR1, the resolution to honor Pregnancy Care Centers was voted on in the House today. It was supported by all, except 3 pro-abortion representatives who were “excused,” Reps. Blake, Gibson, and Wismer.