



CONCERNED CITIZEN

June 2004

A publication of Concerned Women for America of California

Any bill failing to pass through its house of origin by May 28 is now considered dead for this portion of the legislative session. Below, we will recap those bills still alive with action items that will allow you to make a difference as they move through the legislative process in their second house.

THE STATE

Bills Advancing to Their Next House:

AB 1925, requiring schools using outside consultants for sex or HIV/AIDS education notify parents at least 14 days in advance who those consultants are, passed the Assembly and is now in the Senate, where it passed its first hearing before the Education Committee on June 2. **Action:** Ask your state senator to support this parental rights measure.

AB 2208, requiring health insurers to provide domestic partner coverage equal to spousal coverage, passed the Assembly on a vote of 46-31. It now moves to the Senate, where it will be heard in the Insurance and Judiciary Committees. **Action:** If your state senator serves on the Senate Insurance or Judiciary Committee, please ask him or her to oppose AB 2208. You may also fax a letter of opposition to the Insurance Committee at 916-327-7093 and the Judiciary Committee at 916-445-8390.

SB 1221 requires that parents be given a separate notice if their district allows 7th through 12th grade children to be removed from campus for confidential medical services without parental knowledge or consent—and most California districts do. The measure passed the Senate on May 26 and now moves to the Assembly, where it will first be heard in the Education Committee. Unfortunately, someone involved with the Senate Education Committee inserted inaccurate amendment language before the bill moved out of the committee. Neither Sen. Morrow nor the committee had agreed to the language, which changes the intent of the bill considerably. It is important that the senator's original amendment language be restored. **Action:** If your assemblymember serves on the Assembly Education Committee, please ask him or her to support SB 1221 and to ensure that the bill's language, as agreed to by the Senate Education Committee, is restored. You may also fax a letter of support to the Assembly Education Committee at 916-319-2187.

SB 1234, a bill to expand "hate" crimes, allows victims to file a civil action for damages, and greatly increase fines, passed the Senate and moves to the Assembly. Its first stop will likely be the Public Safety or Judiciary Committee. The language in this bill could be subject to broad interpretation and be very problematic in certain court settings. Individuals could potentially claim, and courts interpret, that truthful speech is "intimidating" or represents a "threat of force." Additionally, since it can be argued that all crime involves an element of "hate," certain crimes should not be raised above others. In other words, someone who mugs your grand-

mother should be just as accountable as someone who mugs a homosexual. **Action:** Please ask your state senator to oppose SB 1234.

Same-Sex "Marriage" Measure Pulled

AB 1967, the same-sex "marriage" bill, was pulled from consideration by its author, homosexual Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco). Thank you to all who share in this victory through their calls, faxes, and e-mails to our legislature and governor. While the measure is now dead for this session, Leno has promised to bring

the bill's language back again in December. According to news reports, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez (D-Los Angeles) will co-author the new measure. With the speaker's support and the deep pockets of AB 1967 supporters, such as the National Organization for Women, the ACLU, the California State Employees' Association and the California Teachers' Association, vocal and intense opposition will be needed. The eyes of the California people will be off the election, when legislators' feet may more easily be held to the fire, so we must be prepared to fight early and forcefully!

If the government sanctions same-sex "marriage," schools will be required to teach that homosexuality is a "normal" and healthy alternative to heterosexuality and businesses will be required to set aside their closely held moral or religious beliefs to subsidize aberrant and destructive behavior. Ultimately, the ability to share Biblical truth will be lost in this land that was founded upon Biblical principles.

We need only look across our northern border to see what could be our future, if the church remains silent. In April, the Canadian Senate voted in favor of C-250, a

The great pillars of all government and of social life [are] virtue, morality, and religion. This is the armor, my friend, and this alone, that renders us invincible.

~ Patrick Henry

[N]either the wisest constitution nor the wisest laws will secure the liberty and happiness of a people whose manners are universally corrupt.

~ Samuel Adams

bill to criminalize “hate” speech based on sexual orientation. For some time, groups such as Focus on the Family have been unable to broadcast programs over the Canadian airwaves that in any way denigrate homosexuality. Fines have been levied against newspaper publishers and advertisers for printing Scripture condemning homosexuality. Now, that abridgement of free speech has been expanded.

As Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Seminary noted in a recent article, “Christian groups in Canada have responded with understandable alarm.” He quoted Brian Rushfeldt, executive director of the Canada Family Coalition, who said of C-250’s passage, “Today the Senate sounded the final death knell in legislation that will severely limit free speech and freedom of religion and even freedom of the press in Canada.” Rushfeldt warned that the new law will “criminalize people who express an opinion contrary to homosexual behavior, including views based on religion, conscience, morality, and even medical or humanitarian concerns. Given the undefined, ambiguous wording in this severely flawed piece of legislation, Christians and other faith groups are worried that expressing their religious or moral views, or even quoting from the Bible or another religious text, may become a criminal act.”

Action: Our Web site (<http://casd.cwfa.org>) has valuable resources on this issue under the “Homosexual ‘Marriage’ Action Packet” [link](#). Please pray that our churches will educate and equip Christians to be salt and light in our culture before it’s too late!

Action Item Note:

If bills mentioned are in the committee process, you can find out if your assemblymember or state senator serves on one of the committees by checking the committee directory at www.assembly.ca.gov or www.senate.ca.gov. Click the specific committee and if your assemblymember or senator is listed, contact information will be provided there. Note that for the Senate you must click “Committees” and then “Standing Committees.” Please ask the member to support or oppose the legislation as specified.

Other Bills Failing to Advance:

AB 2180, a bill to add religious protection to the education code by stating that sex or HIV/AIDS education may not denigrate religion, failed in the Assembly Education Committee.

AB 2662, which required state agencies and departments not to discriminate against women based on the controversial global “Equal Rights Amendment” known as CEDAW, died in the Appropriations Committee suspense file.

AB 2331 required that physicians performing third-trimester abortions offer the pregnant woman information and counseling on fetal pain and offer anesthesia for the unborn child. The bill failed in committee.

Governor Turns Down Abstinence Funds, Teens Lose

In April, we asked you to contact Gov. Schwarzenegger and encourage him to accept federal Title V abstinence funds. This year, our state could have seen over \$7 million of our own federal tax dollars returned to our state to help reduce California’s teen pregnancy and abortion rates, as well as the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases. California’s teen abortion rate is double the national average with 39 abortions per 1000 women ages 14-34 (The national average is 20 per 1000.). The governor’s budget is out and he turned down the funds, continuing California’s dubious honor of being the only state to turn down federal block grants for abstinence education every year since 1997.

CA Supremes Hear License Case

On May 25, the California Supreme Court heard oral arguments concerning the San Francisco “marriage” licenses issued in defiance of state law by Mayor Gavin Newsom and his staff. For two hours, attorneys from both sides responded to pointed questions from the justices. In general, the tone of the questions suggested that the court was very concerned about Newsom’s decision to disregard what he considered to be an unconstitutional statute and create his own remedy, rather than working through the judicial system. For example, Chief Justice George wondered if the attorney for San Francisco would hold that the mayor acted appropriately if he had been declining to enforce gun control or planning statutes. Justice Chin asked, “If AB 1967 passed, would mayors be free to disregard it?” From the line of questioning, it appears that the court may rule that the Mayor Newsom and his staff acted outside their authority.

On the issue of the licenses themselves, the outcome is less clear. Many questions revolved around the due process rights of the 4,000 couples with false “marriage” licenses in hand and whether or not they should be declared invalid. Jordan Lorence, senior counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund, pointed out that the licensees had no reasonable expectation that the “marriages” would actually be valid, given the prominent disclaimer on the forms themselves and general knowledge that state law defines marriage as between a male and a female.

Action: Please be in prayer for the decisions before the California Supreme Court. The justices will rule within 90 days. May God speak wisdom to their hearts.

THE NATION

Pain Awareness Act Introduced

On Thursday, May 20, CWA joined Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kansas) and Rep. Christopher Smith (R-New Jersey) at a news conference for the introduction of their “Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act” (S. 2466 and H.R. 4420). This bill, based on the incontestable fact that the human fetus has a fully developed nervous system by the 20-weeks gestational age, and, therefore, feels pain, requires that any mother seeking an abortion who is 20 or more weeks pregnant must be informed of the fact that her baby has a fully developed nervous system and will

feel pain as it is killed. The mother then has the option of requesting anesthesia for the baby or signing a statement declining anesthesia.

Action: Ask your representative to co-sponsor H.R. 4420. Use the contact information on page 4 or go to our Web site at www.cwfa.org, click on "[Legislation](#)," and quickly share your views with your senators and representative on this and other key bills.

Cunningham Supports Fetal Stem-Cell Research

Despite a "pro-life" voting record, Rep. Duke Cunningham (R-San Marcos) led an effort in which over 200 congressmen signed a letter asking President Bush to expand his administration's policy on embryonic stem-cell research (ESCR) and use federal funds to make more tiny humans available for experimentation and destruction.

CWA representatives met with Rep. Cunningham's staff and shared our concern over his support for ESCR (To be clear, he also supports umbilical cord and adult stem-cell research.). In a written response, Cunningham stated, "My support for stem-cell research on embryos in excess of those needed for [in-vitro fertilization] is consistent with my pro-life stance because I believe it will save countless human lives and end human suffering."

Unfortunately, many legislators share this same misguided compassion that tries to save lives by destroying lives. Adult stem cells offer all the therapeutic possibilities of embryonic cells without some of the dangerous outcomes that have been encountered in ESCR experimentation—and without destroying a life in the process. The promise of adult stem cells has been documented, as have the failures of ESCR. Unfortunately, the hype for cord blood and adult stem cells doesn't match the celebrity hype, the eugenics agenda and financial profit of the embryonic research supporters. Please join us in praying that our legislators and medical researchers would seek the truth on this issue and take the road that is better for *all* concerned. For more information, please visit our Web site. Consider reading "[Adult Stem-Cell Treatments: A Better Way](#)."

Judge Rules in Favor of Infanticide

On June 1, a federal judge in San Francisco ruled that the "Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act" is unconstitutional. CWA's Senior Policy Director Wendy Wright subsequently issued the following statement: "This ruling gives a whole new meaning to the notion that justice is blind. Partial-birth abortion is a barbaric procedure which literally kills a baby that is completely delivered except for the head. The American Medical Association has said that Partial-Birth Abortion is never medically necessary.

"Given that Judge Phyllis Hamilton was predisposed to this ruling it comes as no surprise. Judge

Hamilton did not allow key, relevant testimony such as the pain felt by unborn babies and records that could prove that partial-birth abortions are never medically necessary," Wright continued.

Two other rulings on the ban, in New York and Nebraska, are due within a few weeks and may conflict with the ruling by Judge Hamilton, a Clinton appointee. It appears likely that the case may eventually end up at the U.S. Supreme Court once again. In that case, Wright concluded, "We expect the law to pass constitutional muster and those babies will be protected, just as Congress overwhelmingly agreed with a large majority of the American people that partial-birth abortion was tantamount to infanticide."

NEWS DESK

Marriage Matters Across the Land

Last month, the decision of four rogue justices on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court resulted in the first legal same-sex "marriages" in America. CWA called on Massachusetts' citizens to take heart and continue to work to uphold real marriage. "The right of the people to govern themselves has been usurped by the courts," said Robert Knight, director of CWA's Culture and Family Institute. "The rest of America is counting on the citizens of Massachusetts to lead the way to restoring the moral order and self-government. Their leaders are AWOL." In fact, a bill has been introduced in Massachusetts seeking to remove Justice Margaret Marshall from the bench, citing that she, in essence, instigated the 4-3 decision that led to the ruling legalizing same-sex "marriage."

In some encouraging news from other states, the Arizona Supreme Court recently let stand a lower court ruling declaring that the state's Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is constitutional. Thirty-eight states have laws defining marriage as between a man and a woman and five states will have defense of marriage amendments on their ballots in November, with at least five more considering such action.

PRAYER POWER

Pray for God's people to seek His face in these trying times. We face an unseen foe prowling about seeking to destroy our families and our children, often by tempting our society to confuse liberty with license. Pray that God's people will be the salt and light we are commanded to be and stand firm against the onslaught of the enemy's unhealthy and unbiblical schemes, such as same-sex "marriage," promiscuity, and pornography. [If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (II Chronicles 7:14)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please note: When sending e-mails, always reference the action you wish the recipient to take in the subject line (ex. "Veto AB 123" or "Oppose H.R. 456"). This ensures that even if the e-mail is not opened, your message has been seen!
You may also use the Citizen Action Program on our Web site. Visit www.cwfa.org, click on "Legislation," and quickly share your views with your senators and representative on many key bills.

Federal Officials

President George Bush 202-456-1414, 202-456-1111, Fax 202-456-2461 president@whitehouse.gov

CA Senators: Call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-225-3121

Dianne Feinstein (D) 310-914-7300, 619-231-9712, Fax: 202-228-3954 <http://feinstein.senate.gov/email.html>
Barbara Boxer (D) 213-894-5000, 619-239-3884, Fax 619-239-5719 <http://boxer.senate.gov/contact>

House of Representatives: Call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-225-3121

Or e-mail your representative by visiting <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

California State Officials

CA Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) 916-445-2841, Fax 916-445-4633 governor@governor.ca.gov
San Diego Office: 619-525-4641, Fax 619-525-4640

To locate and contact your California state senator or assemblymember:

Call the State Capitol Operator at 916-322-9900
Or visit <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html> to locate your officials by zip code

For Your Information...

This publication is provided at no charge to Concerned Women for America members and other interested parties to offer information that will spur the readers to prayer and action on critical issues. If you wish to have this publication forwarded to you via e-mail, send a request to subscribe to: sd.legislation@california.cwfa.org. Your name, address, and phone would be helpful.

Concerned Citizen is provided through CWA of California - San Diego/Imperial Counties and deals primarily with legislation on the federal and California state levels, though you need not be a California resident to subscribe. If you wish to join CWA, we welcome you to become one of more than 500,000 members in the nation's largest public policy women's organization. Men are encouraged to join and make an impact as well. You may join by completing the membership application below. If you have any questions, please call our local office at 760-929-0352. Your financial contribution will assist the work right here in our area.

One final note: As we work to build the network of CWA in California, we invite you to prayerfully consider becoming a Prayer/Action Chapter leader or joining an existing chapter. Part of our goal is to have a presence in every church in our area. You could be part of that plan. For more information on these options and others, please contact our Area Director Cindy Moles (760-929-0352 or sd.director@california.cwfa.org), if you live within San Diego or Imperial County. If you live outside these areas, please contact our Field Development Coordinator Kenda Bartlett (800-964-2203 or inquiries@cwfa.org). Whatever the issue, you can have an impact in your community.

Penny Harrington, Legislative Liaison/Editor

CWA of California – San Diego Web site: <http://casd.cwfa.org>

All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing. ~ Edmund Burke

If you are concerned about the future of the American family, you can make a difference by becoming involved with Concerned Women for America in your state and community.

JOIN US TODAY!

Enclosed is my contribution (minimum \$20, please) for the work of Concerned Women for America in my state. This membership includes an annual subscription to the *Family Voice* newsletter. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please complete and return to: CWA, P.O. Box 131401, Carlsbad, CA 92013