



CONCERNED CITIZEN

May 2005

A publication of Concerned Women for America of California

Web site - <http://casd.cwfa.org>

AROUND THE STATE

Time for an Update

Policy hearings are winding down in Sacramento, and we've kept you quite busy making your voice heard through our action alert system. In this issue, we'll update you on a number of key bills and identify our main targets for May as measures head to the floor of their first house (Remember, for legislation to become law, it must pass *both* houses and evade the governor's veto pen.). May 27 is the deadline for bills to pass out of their house of origin. This will be a busy month, so hang on and get ready for action! (To subscribe to our alerts, send your request to sd.legislation@california.cwfa.org).

Top of the Heap

Physician-assisted suicide could become legal here if AB 654 continues its progress. The measure [passed](#) the Assembly Judiciary Committee and is pending review in Appropriations. The American Medical Association states, "Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks. Instead of participating in assisted suicide, physicians must aggressively respond to the needs of patients at the end of life."

Action: *Please contact your assembly member and the governor, asking that they oppose AB 654. See page three for contact information.*

Same-sex "marriage" cleared its first hurdle as the Assembly Judiciary Committee also [passed](#) AB 19 on a party-line vote. Last month the California Democratic Party unanimously passed a [resolution](#) calling for homosexual "marriage" saying in part, "Our party must support efforts to end the pernicious practice of marriage discrimination in California."

While the vote on AB 19 was discouraging, pro-family efforts asking churches to speak out in support of traditional marriage paid off. Last year when a similar bill was proposed, more liberal churches supported same-sex "marriage" than Biblically based churches that opposed it. This time, the committee [analysis](#) showed less than 40 letters received from liberal churches and over 80 opposition letters from churches teaching Biblical

truth, including some very large evangelical churches! Praise God, and thank you for writing your own letters and encouraging your pastors to do the same. Keep it up. We need many more!

Action: *AB 19 now moves to the Assembly Appropriations Committee and probably to the Assembly floor. Please contact your assembly member, state senator and Gov. Schwarzenegger NOW! Contact information is on page three. Please ask your church to send letters as well. Please fax us a copy at (760)-476-9569.*

Movin' On Up

As you know, CWA of California is tracking many bills this session and we encourage you to make your voice heard on as many as you can. Visit our Web site's legislation section at

<http://casd.cwfa.org> for the bill descriptions, status updates (including the good bill graveyard), talking points and sample letters. Here are a few updates on other bills that have advanced:

AB 172 – Under this bill, which has passed to education committees, universal preschool is a step closer to reality. Pro-family groups are worried that this "voluntary"

measure may become involuntary. Amendments to the bill calling for preschool teaching credentials have heightened that concern. AB 172 awaits an appropriations hearing. **Action:** *Ask your assembly member and Gov. Schwarzenegger to oppose AB 172.*

AB 866 – Do you want to know where candidates stand on same-sex "marriage?" If AB 866 passes, candidates who sign the "Code of Fair Campaign Practices" will have to refrain from any statements that could be construed as "negative" toward sexual orientation or gender identity issues. This terrible bill creates two classes of candidates (those who sign and those who don't), and threatens free speech on critical social issues! **Action:** *AB 866 has already passed the Assembly and is in the Senate. Ask your state senator and the governor to oppose this bill.*

SB 161 – Should schools post on their campuses all things students can do without their parents' knowledge or permission? SB 161 allows schools to post those rights and requires the California

*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
(Hebrews 4:16)*

*God Shed His Grace on Thee
National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 5, 2005
Please make time to pray!*

Department of Education to post them on its Web site. SB 161 passed the Senate Education Committee and is now before appropriations. **Action:** *Ask your state senator and Gov. Schwarzenegger to oppose this further attempt to circumvent parental guidance and support.*

SB 753 – In one bit of good news, a parental rights measure passed the Senate Education Committee and is in appropriations. SB 753 requires schools to notify parents in a separate document if their district allows students to leave campus for confidential medical services without parental knowledge or consent. Most parents are unaware that the majority of our school districts have adopted such release policies. **Action:** *Ask your state senator and the governor to support SB 753.*

THE NATIONAL SCENE **Pro-Parent Measure Passes**

We're pleased to report that the "Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act" (H.R. 748) **passed** the House and, according to Senate Majority Leader Frist, will be taken up in the Senate this summer. This bill will protect minor girls from adults who take them across state lines for an abortion in order to circumvent a state's parental notification law. **Action:** *Please contact Sens. Boxer and Feinstein and ask them to support this measure. Further, ask them not to allow procedural tactics to block this bill, but to move it to the floor for a vote!*

Don't Play Games with Nominees

CWA's chief counsel Jan LaRue likens the Senate minority's refusal to vote on the president's judicial nominees to a neighborhood bully who takes the ball and runs home because he can't stand to lose. It's time they played the game—win or lose. Everybody gets a vote and the American people need strong constitutional judges. LaRue states, "Americans don't want judges who think the Constitution needs to conform to the laws of some banana republic or that it's their own personal Etch-a-Sketch to create rights to same-sex "marriage," partial-birth abortion, Internet pornography, constitutionalizing sodomy and striking down the Pledge of Allegiance." **Action:** *Our senators need to know we're watching! Please call Sens. Boxer and Feinstein and ask them to support "yes" or "no" votes for all judicial nominees.*

NEWS DESK QUICK TAKES

❖ The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has launched a great Web site to help parents communicate with their children on the tough topic of sex. The site, 4parents.gov, gives accurate statistics about contraceptive failure rates and helps parents, who have tremendous influence with their teens, share the impor-

"These are perilous times for people of faith, not in the sense that we are going to lose our lives, but in the sense that it will cost you something if you are a person of faith who stands up for what you believe in and say those things out loud." ~ *California Supreme Court Justice Janice Rogers Brown (and at the center of the Bush appeals court nominee controversy)*

tance of abstinence. **Action:** *Please thank HHS for this helpful Web site. Call (301) 594-4001.*

❖ Contrary to the California Department of Education's claim that about 87 percent of our high school students receive diplomas, a report by Harvard University's Civil Rights Project shows that figure to be just over 70 percent. Further, only half of the African American, Latino and American Indian students graduate. Unfortunately, too many of those who do graduate are under-prepared for college. Last month, a report to California State University trustees indicated that in fall 2004 only 43 percent of incoming freshmen were proficient in both English and math.

❖ Last month, the Oregon Supreme Court, in a *unanimous* decision, invalidated thousands of same-sex "marriages," stating that the licenses were "void at the time they were issued." As in California, Oregon law has always recognized only opposite sex couples in marriage law, but Oregon also passed a voter initiative in November 2004 (Measure 36) placing such language in the state constitution. *California needs to follow suit!*

Action: *SCA 1 and ACA 3 are state constitutional amendments that will be heard in the Senate and Assembly Judiciary Committees on May 10. Please fax your letter supporting these amendments that define marriage as between a man and a woman to both committees today! Assembly Judiciary fax: (916) 319-2188 (Please support ACA 3.); Senate Judiciary fax: (916) 445-8390 (Please support SCA 1). Sample letters are available on our Web site (<http://casd.cwfa.org>).*

PRAYER POWER

Pray for marriage and life to be protected in California and throughout or nation. Pray against confusion caused by the enemy and for boldness among our church leaders. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

Praise God we have new Prayer/Action Chapter leaders and Steering Committee Members in areas throughout the state! Pray for CWA leadership in California to continue to grow. Ask God to provide issue specialists, clerical assistance, researchers and writers. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38)

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"). 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 federal bills.

Federal Officials

President George Bush (202) 456-1414, (202) 456-1111, Fax: (202) 456-2461, E-mail: President@whitehouse.gov

CA Senators: Call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 225-3121 or toll free at (877) 762-8762

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) (310) 914-7300, (619) 231-9712, Fax: (202) 228-3954, E-mail:

Senator@feinstein.senate.gov

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D) (213) 894-5000, (619) 239-3884, Fax: (619) 239-5719, E-mail by visiting:

www.boxer.senate.gov/contact

House of Representatives: Call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 225-3121 or toll free at (877) 762-8762. E-mail your representative by visiting: www.house.gov/writerep/

California State Officials

CA Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) Sacramento: (916) 445-2841 (Dial "0" to reach staff.), Fax: (916) 445-4633; San Diego Office: (619) 525-4641, Fax: (619) 525-4640; E-mail: governor@governor.ca.gov or at www.govmail.ca.gov/

Additional fax numbers: Sacramento (916) 445-4633, Los Angeles (213) 897-0319, San Francisco (415) 703-2803, San Diego (619) 525-4640, Fresno (559) 445-5328, Riverside (909) 680-6863

To locate and contact your California state senator or assembly member:

Check your phone book or call (916) 319-2800

Or visit <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html> to locate your officials by zip code.

Contact Us!

To subscribe to this publication, send a request to: sd.legislation@california.cwfa.org. For more information on becoming involved with CWA, 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. 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.