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CWA of Pennsylvania

E-alert

CWA of Pennsylvania

July 11, 2007

Encourage-A- Legislator

This is an exciting and powerful way to impact our state with prayer. CWA of PA has initiated an effort to Encourage-A-Legislator by matching you with a legislator that you agree to pray for intentionally for one year. We ask that you also send him/her a postcard monthly. CWA of PA supplies the postcards, name and contact information on the legislator and helpful resources that will encourage you as you encourage your member. Click the link below to sign up.

[Concerned Women for America of Pennsylvania](#)

Hate Crimes vote scheduled in U.S. Senate

The vote on S1105 is anticipated to be next week (July 16-20). It currently sits in the Senate Judiciary Committee which is expected to vote sometime this week. Sen. Arlen Specter is a Ranking Member in this Committee; unfortunately, he is also listed as a co- sponsor of S 1105 (along with Sen. Bob Casey, Jr.), but that does not mean we should not contact them about their anticipated vote. They need to hear from concerned constituents!

This Hate Crimes bill: 1. Threatens religious leaders and groups with criminal prosecution and investigations into a suspect's thoughts, beliefs and statements. 2. Requires criminal investigations to probe if a crime occurred "because of" bias towards a protected group and opens the door to criminal investigations of a suspect's philosophical beliefs, politics, biases, religion, activities, and past statements. 3. Creates unequal treatment of victims by treating crimes against protected groups more seriously than non-protected groups (e.g. the murder of a homosexual victim will be treated more seriously than a heterosexual victim.) 4. The Hate Crimes bill is unnecessary; the underlying offense is already fully and aggressively prosecuted in all 50 states. ACTION: Call Sens. Specter (202-224-4254) and Casey (202-224-6324) and urge a nay vote on S1105.

[Contact U.S. Senator](#)

Pennsylvania Hostage Crisis Ends

Harrisburg "The new budget is like a blind date; it is what we expected - not what we hoped for," stated Kathryn English, president of PA Club for Growth. "I am disappointed Republican leaders who publicly stated they would reduce Governor Rendell's proposed budget are supporting a budget even greater than Rendell's proposal." To add insult to injury, Sens. Mike Folmer (R-

District 48) and Bob Regola (R-District 39) have introduced a Taxpayer Protection Act (TPA) that would limit yearly spending increases to the combined rate of inflation and population growth. This legislation is co-sponsored by 28 Republicans and 2 Democrats. For this budget to pass, at least five of the co-sponsors of the Taxpayer Protection Act will have to violate the spirit of the TPA.

Pennsylvania has a \$640 million surplus which should have been returned to the people. Under the TPA, 75 percent of the surplus would have been instantly returned, not generated into new spending. Borrowing money as a way to avoid tax increases is just a tax increase delayed. This is a backend tax increase. ACTION: Contact your state senator and urge him to co-sponsor/support the Taxpayer Protection Act.

[Pennsylvania state legislator link](#)

Same Sex health benefits for PA Professors

For gay and lesbian faculty at Pennsylvania's 14 state-owned universities, the wait for health care benefits that cover their partners may be over. Domestic-partner health insurance was added outright to the menu of fringe benefits in a tentative contract agreement the faculty union reached with the State System of Higher Education. If the union and the system's board ratify the pact, the professors will become the first unionized state employees to receive domestic-partner health benefits. In recent years, state lawmakers rankled by the notion of providing benefits to same-sex partners of public employees, tried unsuccessfully to pass legislation that would ban such a practice.

ACTION: Contact your state representative and senator and encourage them to take legislative action to stop the spending of tax dollars to provide benefits to same-sex partners of unionized state employees.

[Pennsylvania state legislator link](#)

Good Home School bill Introduced

Introduced on May 8, House Bill 1273 would significantly improve the homeschool law of Pennsylvania, one of the most restrictive laws in the nation.

ACTION: Read more!

[Home School Legal Defense Association](#)

About Concerned Women for America of PA

Concerned Women for America of Pennsylvania is a state chapter of Concerned Women for America the nation's largest public policy women's organization. Our core issues are the sanctity of human life, education reform, supporting the traditional family, battling pornography and national sovereignty.

CWA of Pennsylvania

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