



Concerned Women for America of North Dakota

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CWA's Six Core Issues

Sanctity of Life
Religious
Liberty

Family
Pornography

Education
National
Sovereignty

**Urgent
Action Alert
On Page 6!**

An Encouraging Word From Your State Director, Janne Myrdal

What a great time of year! Though we were doubting it was coming to North Dakota this year, spring has arrived in North Dakota. Grass turning green, budding trees, birds chirping and the geese forever flying over, letting us loudly know spring is here. What a great reminder of God's beautiful and orderly creation. It gives my heart great hope during this challenging time in our nation. His Word is true; His resurrection is eternal and unchangeable, and we shall one day see Him face to face!! The recent strength and resilience of North Dakotans during floods and harsh conditions is a testimony to the blessings of God upon our great state. We continue to pray for full recovery of property and homes as we raise our voices in gratitude for His great protection and grace upon our land.

I know the news is not great these days; the nation is being led, if not pushed, down a moral and fiscal slippery slope to say the least.

This current administration is anti-life, anti-family and, I dare say, at times it even seems anti-American in its policies. We have a lot of work to do to engage our current culture! CWA of North Dakota is actively promoting public policies that protect life from conception to death, protect marriage between a man and a woman only, fight sex trafficking and pornography and defend freedom of religion in our homes, schools and the public arena.

We are grateful for the great laws that were passed in the North Dakota Legislature this year (please read the legislative report on page 3). It is a privilege to be a part of this process, and CWA will continue to be a strong presence in this arena in our state. One bill in particular stood out this year, the so-called "sexual orientation" bill. We are grateful to have seen the defeat of this bill that would have given special rights under our laws based on



chosen sexual behavior. In spite of the media and left wing efforts to convince us otherwise, sexual orientation is a behavior and not in-born. It was stunning to observe, though not surprising, during the hearings on this bill that representatives from Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the nation, as well as other pro-abortion leaders sat in full support of this bill that would turn the definition of marriage, the God ordained gift of a relationship between a man and a woman, into a grey "whatever you feel like" institution. Is it not interesting that those who believe in the murder of innocent unborn children also

CWA of North Dakota's First Banquet

*Coming this Fall!
Watch for additional
information to come.*



CWA North Dakota Director visits with Father Frank Pavone during his visit to North Dakota recently. What an honor to meet this wonderful pro-life man, and what a privilege for North Dakota to have the likes of him care and pray for our state.

Join us!

Our steering committee is a volunteer staff. We would love to have you join us in our efforts.

One key position currently available on the steering committee is Prayer Chapter Coordinator. Inquire today for more information.

[Click here](#) to e-mail us or give us a call at (701) 331-0946.

would welcome the destruction of traditional family structure? It all comes from the same source, and we must remember who our true enemy is, not people who disagree with us, but rather the enemy of our souls. "We battle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers of darkness..." (Ephesians 6:12). You can read CWA of North Dakota's testimony against the sexual orientation bill at our website (<http://nd.cwfa.org>).

A bill similar to the bill defeated in North Dakota has just passed the U.S. House of Representative and is now pending in the U.S. Senate. This bill does not create equal rights under the law but un-equal rights. It will allow a "sacred cow" public square where all sexual behavior is protected as a special right. We are grateful to see the defeat of this bill in North Dakota, but we must prepare to fight it again in our state and in our nation. The nation is literally turning "topsy turvy" when it relates to sexual behavior. See alert on page 6.

It reminds me of George Orwell's novel *1984* that I read in high school. He predicted through the characters in his book that by the year 2050 at the latest we would not even hear discussions or conversations of any issues like those we now have as they would be outlawed. The coming

generations would not even know of them as the whole climate of thought would be different, and the range of thought would be narrowed to exclude all mention of faith, orthodoxy and moral values. As we hear of fears today, the most prevalent are economic fears, and we hear from the most conservative how our kids and grandkids will have to pay our debt. What should be of even deeper concern is the heritage we leave our children and grandchildren, a heritage of the founding principles of this great nation, Judeo-Christian values and, most of all, faith in Providence and our Creator.

Scary times? Maybe, **but what a great time to be alive and to serve an awesome God.** What a great opportunity to seek God for revival and healing of our land! We must take on the challenges of our time in whatever arena our Lord Jesus Christ would call us. We must pass on the heritage and history we so deeply cherish.

The core values of CWA struck a cord in my heart years ago when I first read them, and I knew that I could not stand by silently and hope for good news to appear from nowhere unless I was willing to serve. What a privilege to serve a Holy and mighty God, the Truth, the Way and the Life. We have the answers, not because each of us is so great and pow-

erful, but because He is!! CWA, as the nation's and the state's largest public policy women's group, is a great avenue by which to serve, and I am ever amazed at the great support and expertise available to us through the national office. It is truly a grassroots organization, and grassroots is what we need to not only hold back, **but turn back the tide** of liberalism and socialism that is encroaching upon our God-given freedoms.

As a State Director for CWA, I am grateful to each of you who support our efforts by prayer, action and giving. All we do is non-profit and none of us are paid to do what we do. We need your support now more than ever as we face grave challenges in our state and nation. Would you prayerfully consider starting a Prayer/Action Chapter in your area? Be a Home Team Captain? (See articles on page 2 and 4.) Would you have CWA come and speak in your area churches or ladies groups? Would you support our efforts by a financial gift?

This is not a time to allow the news and "change" to steal our resolve and hope, but rather a phenomenal opportunity to stand for Biblical values in the public square. I firmly believe that **ONE VOICE MATTERS**, and together we can become many voices, and we truly can change a nation!

2009 Legislative Report

It was a privilege to once again work alongside several other pro-life and pro-family organizations in North Dakota during the 2009 North Dakota Legislative Session. We are also blessed in our state to have numerous lawmakers committed to keeping North Dakota sound and strong as it relates to common sense laws, leading the way in the nation in protecting and promoting the sanctity of life and protecting traditional family values.

Pro-Life laws that were passed provided the following:

Abortion facilities must now post a sign informing its clients that they cannot be forced nor coerced into having an abortion. The facility is also mandated by law to offer the woman an ultrasound image of her unborn child, and she must be clearly informed that the procedure will "terminate the life of a whole, separate, unique, living human being". (These bills were HB1371, HB1445 and SB2265.)

North Dakota lawmakers also overwhelmingly passed HCR3015, a resolution to Congress to oppose the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) and all of its components. CWA of North Dakota met with staff in our U.S. Senators offices in Washington, D.C. in regards to

this resolution; CWA also has requested a public statement in response to HCR3015 from our U.S. Senators, but as of the current date, we have not received an answer to this request. Rep. Earl Pomeroy has stated he will not support FOCA in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Concerned Women for America sincerely thanks all the lawmakers who voted in favor of these bills. Your reward will certainly be eternal as you continue to stand with us to protect the life of the unborn. *CWA will continue to work in coalition with other pro-life organizations with a priority towards legislation that when passed, pending legal challenges, will save the most babies in the immediate future.* And let's hope, pray and continue to proclaim that our Lord would allow North Dakota to be the first abortion-free state.

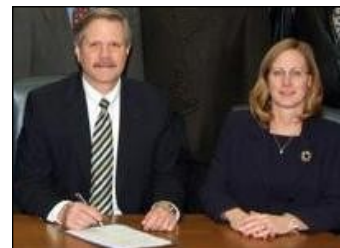
Pro-family values protected by defeating the following bills:

SB2278 was mentioned in the director's letter on the first page. We were able to **defeat** this unconstitutional measure in the North Dakota House. Our gratitude to all of you who called or e-mailed your lawmakers and prayed to defeat this bill! And also to the lawmakers who under huge pressure to conform to

this left wing agenda of destruction of God's true design, stood strong and voted "No". Please visit our website for more information on this issue.

Early on in the 2009 Legislative Session, CWA opposed a bill that would have re-structured the Commission of Women's Status in North Dakota. This bill was promoted strongly by liberal lawmakers in our state, as they tried to include "women's health care" under this Commission, thereby possibly linking the work of this commission, which is funded by the state, to abortion providers. It was evident early on that this bill was being pushed hard by pro-abortion forces in our state, and we are grateful this "wolf in sheep's clothing" bill was defeated early on in committee largely due to CWA testimony. (This bill was SB2194.)

CWA thanks each of you who prayed as the work was being done during this session; thank you to those of you who e-mailed, called or wrote to your members of the legislature. Your actions made a difference!



HB1371 signed by Governor John Hoeven (left) with prime sponsor Rep. Bette Grande (right).



HB1445 signed by Governor John Hoeven (left) with prime sponsor Rep. Chuck Damschen (right).

Sign up for CWA of North Dakota Action Alerts Today!

Simply e-mail us, and we will keep you updated on events, state legislation, federal legislation and more!

[Click here](#) to e-mail us today!

One Voice Matters

- by Beth Brown, Home Team Captain

There are lots of ways to become involved in the public policy arena without ever having to even leave the comfort of your home.



Are you unhappy with where our country seems to be heading? YOU can make a difference!! There are lots of ways to become involved in the public policy arena without ever having to even leave the comfort of your home. I know, because I chose to get involved as a "Home Team Captain" with North Dakota Concerned Women for America.

The "job" I have as a Home Team Captain is very simple. I just pass along information about what is happening in the public policy arena at both the state and federal levels. When I receive updates from our State Director, I first of all take it to the Lord in prayer, and then I consider what needs to be done. I then forward that information by e-mail or phone to the women on my list. These women are friends, members of my church, concerned citizens, etc. I know nearly all of them personally. They, too, pray about it and can send it on to others who do the same. Ideally, the recipient would feel strongly enough about the issue to contact their legislator. In the matter of about a day, we've caused a ripple effect across our state resulting in prayer lifted to our God on behalf of our state or nation and, hopefully, armed women with information they can use

to go to their representative and hold that person accountable for their vote.

Citizens and, especially Christian citizens, need to be involved in the process. We can no longer sit back and assume that our officials will do the right thing. Your opinion counts; your voice matters, but you have to use it so you can be heard! If we fail to communicate with our elected officials, we can hardly complain when they don't represent us correctly. Since I strongly believe that as an elected official they SHOULD be voting according to their constituent's views, I e-mail or call their offices. This is an extremely efficient method of contacting them, especially when bills are on the floor or coming up soon. Many representatives actually have e-mail at their seats while on the floor so they can be constantly alerted to communications from constituents.

We are very fortunate that both our North Dakota senators and representative always reply by letter to your comments so you have proof that someone in his office read and documented your views.

This year the pro-life and pro-family bills that CWA worked in the North Dakota Legislature

were all decided in our favor. It was very gratifying to see that the time and effort spent on those causes were successful. It was amazing to hear the stories from the legislative floor where God had worked and moved in people to create a turn of events that no one would have expected. The many answers to prayer were very evident and have truly been an encouraging balm to my faith.

Our God is alive and well, and we must call out to Him on behalf of our state and nation. II Chronicles 7:14 has become very real to me, "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 heal their land." I believe that by being involved as a Home Team Captain, I am helping to inform citizens, offer up prayer and, hopefully, bring some healing to our land.

Local Prayer/Action Chapter

- by Linda Thorson, Edinburg Prayer/Action Chapter Leader

Do you ever ask yourself "What next?" after watching the news? Do you feel weary because the reported news brings you sadness? I want to encourage you to take action and begin a Prayer/Action Chapter in your area. It is your opportunity to be part of something bigger than you.

For me, joining a Prayer/Action Chapter was a wonderful way to come apart and meet together with those who share God's heart for the lost. Our Prayer/Action Chapter meets once a month. It is a time of great encouragement as well as a time to learn

about current issues. We discuss current local, state and national issues and spend time talking about what we can do to act on those issues. Our prayer time is our chance to come together before God's throne to express our desires for our county and our hope for the lost.

I know as I have met together with Christian women to discuss issues, my faith and hope for the future has increased! Proverbs 23:18 says, "There is surely a future hope for you." Being a member of our Prayer/Action Chapter has not only encouraged my faith and hope, but it has also

provided opportunities for me to be a part of spreading that faith and hope to others.

We do not have to listen to the news with a heavy heart; instead, we can be encouraged to "reach forward to those things which are ahead" as Paul writes in Philippians 3. Being a member of a CWA Prayer/Action Chapter is a way to be alert and informed on issues. It also keeps our eyes on God's calling to reach the lost with the message of hope. Please consider starting or joining a Prayer/Action Chapter in your area!



CWA of North Dakota 2009 Encourage-A-Legislator Campaign

- by Karen A. Anderson, Encourage-A-Legislator Coordinator

January was the kick-off for CWA of North Dakota's Encourage-A-Legislator campaign. Every two weeks during the 2009 North Dakota Legislative Session, our volunteers sent to the legislator for whom they had signed up to pray a beautiful pre-printed postcard. The postcards were provided by CWA of North Dakota and had a Scripture verse and a note of encouragement, informing the legislator that the volunteer was praying for them and his

or her family. No lobbying was done with these postcards. They were for prayer and encouragement only. The cards had a great impact on the men and women serving in Bismarck. Many of the legislators expressed appreciation for the cards and prayers being said for them. Our legislators serve our state and sacrifice their time and efforts for our welfare so we felt honored to be praying for them, asking God to give them wisdom and discernment.

Through this campaign, every legislator was covered in prayer! What a privilege to participate in this effort. May the volunteers and their families be blessed and also encouraged for participating. Thank you so much for your willingness and time! I hope you will want to join us again in the 2011 North Dakota Legislative Session to pray for the leaders of this great state.



Your Action is Needed Today on Hate Crimes Legislation!

Could come up for a vote as early as the end of May

“Hate crimes” creates special classes of victims based solely upon their “sexual orientation” or “gender identity.” Victims who engage in homosexual, transgender, fetish, or other sexual behaviors would get preferential treatment over victims who are grandmothers, veterans or children. In other countries, it has led to punishing people for their Biblical views on sexuality. **It violates the U.S. Constitution.**

The 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution affords equal protection to every citizen, regardless of their sexual choices. “Hate crimes” would treat victims differently because of their sexual choices. An assault on a homosexual man would trigger a harsher penalty than committing the same violent crime against a child. That’s wrong.

There is no need for special status.

Crimes against people who engage in different sexual behaviors are already prosecuted. Thus, there is no reason for special protection above any other citizen.

FBI statistics reveal that in 2007 about 1.4 million violent crimes were committed in the U.S. Of these, 1,512 were reported as “hate crimes” motivated by “sexual orientation” bias. Two-thirds were name calling, pushing or shoving. Only 247 cases were aggravated assault (including five deaths) allegedly motivated by “sexual orientation.” In each case, where appropriate, offenders were prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. The victims received the exact same justice guaranteed every American.

“Hate crimes” is an overreach and overbroad.

“Hate crimes” laws politicize crimes, pressuring police and prosecutors to devote more resources to some cases at the expense of other victims. They unnecessarily expand the power of the federal government to intervene in local matters. Forty-five states already have some form of “hate crimes.” States are already prosecuting to the fullest extent of their laws. Over 30 kinds of sexual behaviors could be covered, including pedophilia and bestiality.

“Hate crimes” laws lead to religious discrimination.

These laws have been used in Europe, Canada – and even in America – to intimidate and punish people who honor natural sexuality and value marriage as the union of a man and a woman. If a person speaks

out against various sexual behaviors, they may be accused of “hate speech” and promoting “hate crimes.”

ACTION: Urge our Senators Kent Conrad (D) and Byron Dorgan (D) to vote against “hate crimes.”

Contact them today!

[Sen. Kent Conrad](#)

Bismarck Office
(701) 258-4648

Washington, D.C. Office
(202) 224-2043

[Click here](#) to E-mail

[Sen. Byron Dorgan](#)

Bismarck Office
(701) 250-4618

Washington, D.C. Office
(202) 224-2551

[Click here](#) to E-mail

[Click here](#) for official fact card on this issue as well as others. An easy way to get the facts, act on the facts and pass the facts on.



Response Form

I wish to contribute to CWA’s mission of putting the families first with my gift of:

\$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

I understand a suggested donation of \$25 or more will make me a member of both CWA of North Dakota and CWA national for one year.

I am interested in:

- becoming a Prayer/Action Chapter Leader. becoming a Home Team Captain.
 attending a Prayer/Action Chapter. being part of a Home Team.
 receiving E-mail alerts. My E-mail address: _____

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____