

POINTS from PIERRE (continued from page 2)

• **SB 41**, a bill to specify the criminal penalty for providing care for more than twelve children in family-home-care was an attempt to single out family-home care, but did not penalize other types of care for having more children than allowed by state law. The penalty was a **misdemeanor charge**. SB41 was sent to the 41st legislative day in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. We believe the **Department of Social Services** received many calls and e-mails that contributed to this bill's demise. We have good laws and law enforcement that **protect children in cases of abuse and neglect**. Larger cities, where people are less likely to know caregivers, require city licensing. But going after the care given by friends, neighbors and relatives in home settings is not a family-friendly way to go about making law.

• **SB 74**, An Act to **repeal the prohibition against stem cell treatments and research**....This bill was brought by "South Dakotans for LifeSaving Cures," who opted for this legislative route instead of a ballot initiative to **overturn our laws banning embryonic stem cell research (ESCR)**. SB74 passed in Senate Health and Human Services Committee but was defeated in the Senate 12-21. There have been **no cures or treatments utilizing research from embryonic stem cells**. Conversely, there have been over 80 diseases and anomalies successfully treated with adult stem cells. **South Dakota should pursue only ethical adult stem cell research** that does not involve the "clone and kill" technique, nor the use of eggs extracted from young women in dangerous and painful procedures. It remains a mystery who employs David Volk, the lobbyist for this bill.

• **SB 191**, a bill to establish the South Dakota Early Learning Council, and to establish community planning processes and eligibility criteria for entities seeking state funding to provide voluntary prekindergarten programs to children from low-income families. This year's "pre-K" bill had a twist: Rather than the Department of Education being in charge, it was the **Department of Social Services** who would "promulgate the rules." We see this as a step back for those who work to eliminate "choice in child care" in our state. Certainly federal funds are already available for Head Start, Child Care assistance payments, special needs preschool, etc. **To add another layer of bureaucracy and another "program" to the mix is unnecessary and unwise**. SB191 passed in the Senate 19-14. House Education Committee sent the bill to the 41st legislative day. It was then smoked out of committee with a "do not pass" recommendation. The motion to "strike the not" failed on the House floor 27-41---in a very similar manner that **last year's SB 191 failed**. Sen. Dempster, along with Voices for Children, has brought this bill for several years. Sen. Dempster is term-limited and is not returning to the South Dakota Legislature.

If you have questions about any bills or how your legislators voted, please e-mail or call us. If you know citizens who were moved to action on our issues, now is the time to send Linda their contact information. She will send them a complimentary newsletter.

Thank you for your faithfulness in assisting us this session. God bless you all!

--Cindy Flakoll, *Legislative Liaison*

CWA membership—State and National

A donation of \$25 or more has TWO benefits: membership in CWA of South Dakota and membership in CWA national.

All donations sent to CWA of South Dakota

P.O. Box 2, New Holland, SD 57364

remain in South Dakota for state projects. All donations sent to CWA national in response to their mailings are utilized in Washington, D.C. Your renewed annual membership/additional donation is greatly appreciated. All contributions are tax-deductible.

**What's in a NAME?
We thought you should know...**

Some groups that claim to be pro-family leave something to be desired.

"South Dakota Voices for Children" sounds pro-family, but CWA of SD has fought their agenda for many years. To learn more, call Cindy at (605) 358-8651.



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Spring
2010

"Protecting the Rights of the Family Through Prayer and Action"



South Dakota State Capitol—100 Years!



Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples. --Psalm 96: 3

This year marks the 100th anniversary of our South Dakota State Capitol Building. Following statehood in 1889, the battle raged among several East River towns until 1904 when Pierre was chosen to be the location for our State Capital. The city of Pierre was named after Pierre Chouteau who established a fur trading post in the area in 1832. A temporary wooden structure served as the Capitol until construction was complete on the present-day Capitol building.

At the laying of the cornerstone, Gov. Crawford stated, "The new capitol will do more than comfortably accommodate the officers who are to labor within its walls for the people whom they will serve. It will stand throughout the coming years as an expression of beauty and art, and as the people come and go and linger within its walls, they will see in it an expression of the soul of the state."

The state saved thousands of dollars by using basically the same plan as the Montana State Capitol. The total cost of the building was \$951,000. The north annex, built in 1932, cost \$295,851. It is estimated that today's building construction alone, without it's beautiful adornment, would be \$68 million.

The Neoclassical Revival architecture makes our Capitol truly a work of art. The classical Roman influence is evident above the entrance where the Latin "V" is used, thus "SOVTH DAKOTA."

In the 1950s, "modernization" was in vogue not only in our country but in the Capitol as well. This resulted in fresh paint covering beautiful designs and murals, replacement of 1910 fixtures with fluorescent lighting, etc. However, during the 1980s the Capitol Complex Restoration and Beautification Commission restored the interior to its original state. Workers removed layers of old paint only to discover beautifully hand painted scrollwork. The wall behind the Speaker's podium in the House of Representatives revealed the original painting of an eagle with a wreath. Outside walls were repaired; carpets replaced to look like the original; marble was cleaned; murals restored, and original or near original light fixtures replaced. Boxes of old light fixtures

were found in the Capitol basement. Amazingly, a man brought two lights used in his barn that had been the original lights used outside the House and Senate chambers.

"Capitol Christmas" began in the 1980s under Gov. Janklow, who requested a huge tree be decorated in the rotunda. However, because such a tree would not fit through the doors, he settled for a forest of trees. Since then, state organizations decorate Christmas trees, and the building is



stunningly adorned in honor of Christmas.

Among my favorite points of interest are the bronze door plates embossed with the State Motto, "Under God the People Rule." Another attraction is the third baluster (representing the Trinity) from the top of the grand staircase, which workers inverted with the belief that only God is perfect. South Dakota history and culture are overwhelmingly evident in the beautiful murals and statues.

When you visit the Capitol you will see its history, South Dakota culture, progress and elegance. Tour guides are available, or you may take your own self-guided tour. Be sure to celebrate our Capitol's centennial!

Source: *The South Dakota State Capitol*, Marshall Damgaard, South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 2008.



Check out CWA's Web sites for information and updates on family issues. <http://sd.cwfa.org> and www.cwfa.org

Contact Your National Elected Officials

<p>Rep. Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin 326 East 8th St., Ste. 108 Sioux Falls, SD 57103 1.202.225.2801 Sioux Falls 1.866.371.8747 Rapid City 394.5280 Aberdeen 626.3440 Fax/202.225.5823 stephanie.hersethsandlin@mail.house.gov</p>	<p>Senator John Thune 320 North Main Ave. Ste. B Sioux Falls, SD 57104 Toll free 1.866.850.3855 Fax/202.228.5429 Sioux Falls 334.9596 Aberdeen 225.8823 Rapid City 348.7551 http://thune.senate.gov/public/</p>	<p>Senator Tim Johnson 5015 S. Bur Oak Pl. Sioux Falls, SD 57108 Ph/202.224.5842 or 1.800.537.0025 Fax/202.228.5765 http://johnson.senate.gov/contact/</p>	<p>President Barack Obama 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington, DC 20500 Ph/202.456.1111 (comment line) comments@whitehouse.gov</p>
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When E-mailing your elected officials, be sure to provide your name and mailing address (street, city, state, zip code). They will disregard your E-mail if this information is not included. Please E-mail only one congressman at a time.

POINTS from PIERRE

Legislative Report

EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2010

January 12 was opening day of session at the State Capitol where State Director Linda Schauer and Legislative Liaison Cindy Flakoll represented your interests as volunteer lobbyists with a physical presence 32 of the 38 days. The bill directory consisted of 278 House bills, 196 Senate bills, 23 resolutions and 13 proposed constitutional amendments. View bills at <http://legis.state.sd.us/sessions/2010/BillList.aspx>

“Putting families first” is Concerned Women for America’s motto. It takes on-the-ground lobbying efforts combined with grassroots prayer and action to effectively fight for family and life issues. Without calls and e-mails from CWA members and friends, successes would have been even more difficult to achieve.

God was surely present in our numerous decisive victories here in South Dakota as we all toil beneath the State Motto, “Under God the People Rule.” We report here the bills CWA of South Dakota worked to either pass or defeat.



Bills CWA Supported

- **HB 1135**, An Act to rescind all previous applications of the State of South Dakota for the calling of a federal constitutional convention to amend the Constitution of the United States. This bill protects our U.S. Constitution by removing any previous calls for a Constitutional Convention, which could be used to make drastic changes. Our founders intended our Constitution to be foundational, not fluid. HB 1135 passed in the House 45-23 and in the Senate 33-2. This vote, especially in the House, indicates a **need for civics education**, a subject that has been devalued or eliminated in most schools.
- **HCR 1014** is a resolution **urging the members of the United States Congress to propose the Parental Rights Amendment to the states for ratification**. A concurrent resolution expresses opinions and principles of the Legislature, though it does not

have the force of law. HCR 1014 passed in the House 41-28 and in the Senate 21-13. While we are pleased at this resolution’s passage, we were disappointed that the vote was not stronger. Again, this points to a need to educate both legislators and citizens about the vulnerability of the United States to **internal and external forces seeking to undermine parents’ right to direct the upbringing of their children**. For example, treaties like the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) would intrude on these rights**, forfeit our national sovereignty, and supersede State laws, which make up the bulk of family law. Article VI of the U.S. Constitution expressly declares treaties are part of the “supreme law of the land.”

- **SB 134**, An act to **provide for divestiture of state investment funds in certain companies liable to sanctions under the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996**. This was an issue our national office had previously supported, so we did likewise. The Senate vote was 26-7 and the House voted 62-5. For more information on this topic, see CWA’s article, “Christian Leaders Urge Immediate Passage of Tough Sanctions on Iran,” <http://www.cwfa.org/articles/18159/MEDIA/nation/index.htm>

Bills CWA Opposed

- **HB 1144**, a bill to **revise the Human Relations Act to include additional categories of persons**. This "human rights" or "bathroom bill" would add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to human rights laws. (See our concern in the article on page 3.) The bill was "tabled" in the House Health and Human Services Committee 8-4 after lengthy debate. CWA supported the "tabled" motion, but would have preferred the bill be sent to the 41st day which kills the bill. **Expect to see EqualitySD continue this march to gain acceptance of the homosexual lifestyle** throughout South Dakota.
- **HB 1156**, a bill to **provide health insurance coverage for contraceptive drugs and devices**. This bill would have forced commercial, nonprofit and faith-based companies to carry coverage for **contraceptive/abortifacient** pills, injections and devices for their employees, even if the company has a **conscientious objection** to doing so. As a matter of practicality, certainly insurance policies do not carry coverage for all procedures, drugs or devices. HB1156 was sent to the 41st day in the House Commerce Committee, and then was "smoked out" of committee. Thankfully the full House failed to "strike the not" in the committee's "do not pass" recommendation, which essentially killed the bill, with a vote of 29-39. **We have seen similar bills many times since 2000**, and we know there will be more. It will be a horrendous day if our state legislature ever mandates that faith-based organizations provide goods and services contrary to conscience rights. Be ever vigilant on this issue.

The Homosexual Agenda on Fast Track

The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. --American Patriot, Patrick Henry

For two years, the South Dakota State Legislature has dealt with three bills regarding *special* rights for persons that practice deviant sexual behaviors. All three bills were defeated; however, the **call for vigilance is undeniable**.

This year’s HB1144 would have added extra categories of persons to our anti-discrimination laws—namely “gender identity, sexual orientation, homosexuality, heterosexuality, and bisexuality.” “Gender identity” is a term generally used to cover “transgender” persons (an umbrella term which covers transvestites, transsexuals, cross-dressers and others) who seek to identify themselves with their non-birth, self-perceived gender. A law similar to HB1144 was passed in Colorado in 2008 which, according to the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies, denies “any person participation, entry, or services based upon the person’s sexual orientation, including transgender status.”

For example, if a man feels that he is a woman trapped in a man’s body, he would legally be allowed to use a public women’s restroom in malls, schools, fitting rooms, swimming facilities, etc. Maine schools are considering mandatory universal restroom access for transgender students to enable them to conform to their “gender identity.”

Expansion of anti-discrimination laws to include such behaviors is affecting more than a dozen states and over 90 local government entities and municipalities. Such policies are a dire **threat to the safety of women and children**—physically and psychologically.

However, **citizens** in Goshen, Indiana, **successfully lobbied to change the votes of their city council** after they added “gender identity” to the city’s non-discrimination policy.

According to their Web site, the mission statement of Equality South Dakota is *to secure and protect the rights and well being of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) South Dakotans and their families through full engagement in the political process*. **Equality South Dakota** is expected to actively work to recruit legislative

candidates who will support the special rights they seek. During this campaign season, ask your local candidates if they will vote NOT TO SUPPORT extending special rights to certain citizens, rather than giving equal rights to all. Our Declaration of Independence states that we are all created equal.

At the Federal level, the most dangerous bill is the **Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)**. This law will apply to all states and change the face of American society. ENDA claims to bar discrimination based on sexual orientation, yet in actuality would endorse discrimination against moral and religious people.

As Christians, let us **pray** that people who practice sinful sexual behaviors will commit their lives to the Lord and allow Him to deliver them from their bondage. Our state Web site, <http://sd.cwfa.org>, has a link to ministries that help people who struggle with abnormal sexual behaviors.

Rapid City School Board adds “Sexual Orientation” to Anti-Bullying Policy

In January, the **Rapid City School Board** added “sexual orientation” to their list of 15 other characteristics for which bullying is prohibited. Homosexual activists use anti-bullying policies as an open door to advance their agenda, especially on youth.

In order to comply with their anti-bullying statutes that include “sexual orientation,” the state of California has **mandated** curriculum promoting the legitimization of homosexual behavior to students as young as kindergarten.

Does your school’s anti - bullying policy include a laundry list of characteristics? Does it include “sexual orientation?” What is the position of school board candidates?

We want all children to be safe from bullying and harassment, but that can be done without developing pro-homosexual

The On-Again Off-Again Ballot Initiative

So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him. --Genesis 1: 27

The so-called South Dakotans for LifeSaving Cures (SDLC) has taken twists and turns in their effort to overturn our good laws prohibiting embryonic stem cell research (ESCR). After failing in their attempt to reverse our laws in the 2009 South Dakota legislature, they organized last fall to bring the issue to a vote of the people with a ballot initiative. When a ballot initiative didn’t appear feasible, they again tried the legislative process.

After the 2010 legislature defeated SB74, SDLC spokesman David Volk stated that they would not pursue a ballot initiative, only after he had previously said they would do so. Interestingly, according to reports filed with the South Dakota Secretary of State, SDLC has little financial backing to proceed with a ballot initiative. So the issue appears to be moot for now.

Private investors are reluctant to throw their money at ESCR anymore because of its dismal failure and the controversy surrounding it. So researchers seek federal funds - our tax dollars - to perform rogue research on tiny human embryos. This amounts to nothing more than a bio-tech bailout.

In 2004, California citizens voted to allocate \$3 billion to ESCR over a 10-year period. According to a January 12, 2010, article at www.investors.com, after five years with no success, researchers are admitting failure and diverting funds to adult stem cell research. The Maryland legislature is considering dedicating a portion of state funds which are designated for ESCR to ethical and successful adult stem cell research.

We all want cures for diseases, and it is adult stem cells that are providing treatments for thousands of patients with more than 80 diseases. Let’s pray that investors and scientists are realizing that ethical science equals good science.