

Abstinence Education Legislation

... your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit ... (1 Corinthians 6:19)

Had you been asked whether sex education in South Dakota should include graphic sections on ____ (too repugnant to describe here), your likely response would have been a resounding "No." Your response would have reflected the results of a recent statewide poll showing more than 92 percent opposition to this type of curriculum for minor children. A nationwide Zogby poll revealed similar results.

HB1217, sponsored by Rep. Roger Hunt, sought to clarify and set guidelines for sexual abstinence instruction in schools that elect to teach it. The bill required medically accurate facts concerning the risks of sexual activity when using contraceptives. **Risk elimination rather than risk reduction were emphasized. The guidelines included a clear definition of abstinence, thus promoting healthy student behaviors.**

While the expected opponents of HB1217 were Planned Parenthood and the ACLU, **it was appalling that lobbyists representing South Dakota public schools and the**

South Dakota Medical Association also worked to defeat the bill. Sadly, HB1217 was defeated.

Schools and youth organizations teach students to abstain from drugs, alcohol and tobacco. It would be absurd to teach: "Don't do drugs, but if you do, here are some clean needles." Neither should schools and others say, "Don't have sex, but if you do, here's how."

Promiscuity is a serious threat to adolescent physical and emotional health. According to *The Effectiveness of Abstinence Education Programs* by Robert Rector, teens who engage in premarital sex are likely to "experience emotional and psychological injuries, subsequent marital difficulties, and involvement in other high-risk behaviors."

Hopefully, parents and youth workers now realize the necessity of investigating the health/sex curriculum presented in their schools. **Youth need high, obtainable and healthy standards. All teens need to be told they are worth waiting for.**

You Are Appreciated!

Thank you to all of you who prayed for and encouraged legislators during the South Dakota legislative session. Quoting one legislator who expressed his appreciation, "The work was very emotional this year and the path South Dakota is now on will require all of us to continue our prayers!"

Thank you to Joyce Goehring and Ann Propst for providing Cindy and Linda a "home-away-from-home" while they were representing CWA at the state capitol.

Confused about your CWA membership?

Your annual one-time donation of \$25 or more grants you membership in both CWA of South Dakota and CWA national. When you send your membership and donations to CWA of South Dakota at our New Holland address, your contributions stay in South Dakota for our state projects. When you donate to national CWA in response to their mailings, those contributions stay at national for their work in Washington DC.

Have you forgotten when you last renewed? Perhaps you can remember, for example, that you should always renew when you receive your CWA of South Dakota spring newsletter.

Each January you will receive a renewal reminder from CWA national. However, if you renewed with CWA of South Dakota, simply ignore national's reminder. **Whether you donate to CWA of South Dakota or to CWA national, we appreciate your support to protect the rights of the family.**

We appreciate your membership and donations, which are our only source of support to carry on the work both in Washington DC and in South Dakota.

The more members we have, the more influence we have as volunteers lobbying our elected officials.

If you have any questions about your membership, please call Linda at (605) 439.3630.

Contact Your National Elected Officials

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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.



Check out CWA's Web site for information and updates on family issues.

www.cwfa.org



Concerned Women for America of SOUTH DAKOTA

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

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Spring
2006

Director's Notes

By far the greatest news story this legislative session was "values voters" to get out and vote. Please take time to educate yourself concerning the bill why there is no exemption for rape and incest. We want to equip you to inform others. Read "Why No Exemption for Rape and Incest," on page 3.

Most important we must pray for an end to abortion. Please pray that President Bush will have opportunity to appoint one or two more Supreme Court Justices and that they will be confirmed. Please pray that the hearts of Americans will value all life—from conception until God ordained death.

*For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together
in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am
fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place.
When I was woven together
in the depths of the earth,
your eyes saw my unformed body.
All the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be.
Psalms 139: 13-16*

—Linda Schauer, State Director

A Courageous Young Lady Who Made the Right Choice

"I'm thankful that I have her in my life." These are the words of Megan Barnett, who testified on behalf of the abortion ban in the Senate State Affairs Committee in February.

At the age of 19, Megan, a resident of northeast South Dakota, was raped. In a hospital's emergency room she was offered the morning-after pill but refused it, knowing that if conception had occurred, the drug would kill her tiny pre-born baby. "I believe that life begins at conception no matter how life was conceived," she explained. Megan's family supported her decision and they have continued to love and encourage her and Maria Grace.

Megan's perpetrator was convicted and is now serving a prison term. Currently, Megan is a college student majoring in elementary education. With Maria Grace at her side, Megan told the committee members, "I now have a beautiful 10-month-old daughter."



Megan Barnett and Maria Grace

Reminder!!

The Leadership of CWA of SD is entirely a volunteer staff. Your donations sent to Box 2, New Holland, South Dakota 57364, stay in South Dakota for state projects—making you a member of CWA of South Dakota as well as CWA national. Your renewed annual membership/additional donation is greatly appreciated. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Mandating Early Care for South Dakota's Children

Just what is best for the children?

Mom and Dad currently take 3-1/2-year-old Johnny to a neighbor for childcare. But when they hear there will soon be a pre-kindergarten program at their local school, they don't want Johnny to miss out. But how will they get him to and from that half-day "school" when they both work full-time? Enter "early childhood providers." "We will take care of little Johnny the WHOLE day, if you wish, Mom and Dad, and after 'school,' too. You won't be inconvenienced to find ways to get him here at noon. He can ride the school bus from home in the morning, and you can just pick him up here when you finish work." This is how the "early childhood teachers" – Hillary-types – will get their hands on more and more children. This is what "the village" is all about.

The preceding paragraph is a note I wrote to myself last year when a pre-kindergarten initiative pilot program, HB 1112, hit the SD Legislature or "came out of the hopper," as we lobbyists say. Thankfully, that bill was defeated; but this year we saw HB 1234, the mandatory half-day kindergarten bill, resurrected no less than three times. It finally passed the last evening of session in a stealth technique that turned the bill into HB 1175. (See <http://legis.state.sd.us/sessions/2006/index.aspx> Type in "1175".)

Confusing? Certainly. Unusual? Not really. The education establishment and early childhood advocates have long-range plans to obtain funding by utilizing children as their pawns, but I have evidence that their plans are not at all what is best "for the children."

Stanford/University of California Berkeley, normally considered bastions of left-wing thought, produced the results of a study last November that showed that children can even be harmed by placing them in school at young ages: "We find that attendance in preschool centers, even for short periods of

time each week, hinders the rate at which young children develop social skills and display the motivation to engage in classroom tasks, as reported by their kindergarten teachers." This lack of development of social skills involved three specific areas: "Children's externalizing behaviors (such as aggression, bullying, acting up), interpersonal skills (such as sharing and cooperation), and self-control in engaging in classroom tasks." "Most surprising ... is that the social skills of ... children suffer – in terms of cooperation, sharing, and engagement in classroom tasks – after attending preschool centers for more than six hours a day compared to similar children who remain at home with a parent prior to starting school."

(To hear this entire testimony, go to <http://legis.state.sd.us/sessions/2006/index.aspx> Type in "170" and at 02/02/2006, click on the SDPB icon, then move the slider to 17:03 minutes.)

Another sampling of the note I wrote to myself: No, distinguished legislators, it is not time to send younger and younger children off to school. This body should push for tax breaks for families with children under the age of six, not send those children away from their mothers and fathers for a good share of their days. If we really think we need these women, these mothers, in the workforce, then we should all be pushing for ways that assist mothers and/or fathers to work from home with their young children at their sides.

Are you thinking about what these little children want? Anyone who has been around small children for even a short period of time has heard those little voices repeatedly saying "I want my mommy. I want my mommy."

- Cindy Flakoll, Legislative Liaison

Why No Exemption for Rape or Incest?

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart ... (Jeremiah 1:5)

South Dakota's abortion ban, HB 1215, contains an exemption for the life of the mother. There is no exemption for rape or incest if it is determined that conception has occurred. Certainly rape and incest are serious crimes, and convicted rapists should be punished according to the law. Victims of rape deserve the compassion and support of family, friends and the church to aid recovery and healing.



A newly formed abortion ban opposition group, ironically titled "South Dakota Campaign for Healthy Families," has begun a petition drive to get the abortion ban on the ballot in November. Their hope is that South Dakota is not all that pro-life and will decide against the abortion ban.

Therefore, both sides of the abortion debate will be working to educate South Dakotans about the ban. Those who oppose the ban will use all their resources to attempt to convince us that the ban is too "harsh" or "extreme" because there is no exemption for rape or incest.

We who favor HB 1215 should use the following talking points in support of the abortion ban's exemptions for rape and incest:

- ✓ If we compare ultrasound pictures of a baby conceived in rape with a baby conceived in consensual love, we see no difference. How babies are conceived is of no consequence.
- ✓ Approximately one percent of abortions are committed due to rape or incest.
- ✓ Approximately 99 percent of abortions are committed for convenience.
- ✓ Pregnancies due to rape are rare, perhaps one in a thousand cases.
- ✓ We do not kill the child for the sin of the father. If your father committed a crime, should you be killed?
- ✓ Giving life to a child conceived in rape offers emotional healing to the mother.
- ✓ Rape victims who had conceived and aborted their children testified that the violence of the abortion was worse than the violence of the rape.
- ✓ Abortion following incest only serves to cover up the crime and protect the offender.
- ✓ Some believe killing the innocent baby will aid in the mother's recovery. Who would conclude that it should be legal to kill the convicted rapist as well?

For more information on this subject please read Jan LaRue's excellent article, "No 'Morning-After Pill' for Rapists" at <http://www.cwfa.org/articles/10327/LEGAL/life/index.htm>

Morning-After Pill

Just when does life begin?

Year after year Planned Parenthood (PP) pushes legislation that would require medical facilities to inform and provide so-called "emergency contraception" to rape victims. This is merely part of PP's ultimate plan to make the drug available over-the-counter.

The term "emergency contraception" is a misnomer. **In some cases, the morning-after pill (MAP) kills a developing embryo, thus making it an abortifacient – a drug that kills an unborn child.** MAP can act in several ways. According to the product's description, MAP can:

- ✓ Stop or delay ovulation (the release of an egg).
- ✓ Stop sperm from fertilizing an egg if it was already released.
- ✓ Stop a fertilized egg from attaching to the wall of the uterus, thus killing the embryo.

The debate hinges on: When does life begin? Science informs us that life begins when the egg is fertilized, rather than when the embryo implants in the uterus. At fertilization, the tiny human being living inside the mother's body has all his or her genetic information.

The oral birth control pill requires a medical exam, a prescription, and physician oversight. The MAP, which is simply a dose 4-40 times the daily dose of "the pill," should be scrutinized to an even greater degree. **However, the MAP has not been adequately studied for safety, particularly in adolescent minor girls.** Kate Looby, state director of PP, stated that the MAP is safe and effective for women who cannot take regular birth control pills. Looby's statement is irresponsible. If women cannot safely take oral contraceptives, which is a low dose given daily, it certainly is not safe to take an increased one-time dose.

Prior to the 2006 South Dakota legislative session, Planned Parenthood in Sioux Falls and Rapid City scheduled a free "give-away" of the MAP to promote awareness of the drug in anticipation of legislation (SB175). Planned Parenthood's "give-away" wasn't restricted to rape victims and was simply a political ploy.

MAP advocates claim that easy access to the drug will reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies; however, studies show that regions that allow easy access experience a significant increase in sexually transmitted diseases and an increase in surgical abortions as well.

Thankfully, SB175 was defeated and CWA of South Dakota will continue to fight the radical, pro-abortion movement.

Mailings

Feeling inundated with mailings from CWA's Washington office? Consider doing any or all of the following:

- Read and educate yourself on the issue.
- Pray about the issue, our leaders and our nation.
- Contact your elected officials about the issue.
- Share the information with others.
- Sign and return any enclosed petition.
- Send a donation to further the work. (Designate to CWA of SD, if you wish.)
- Throw the mailing in the trash.

Concerned Women for America is the nation's largest public policy women's organization.

Women for Women

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves ... " (Proverbs 31:8)

The South Dakota Legislature is blessed with over 65 percent of female legislators voting pro-woman, pro-family and pro-child. They have formed a bi-partisan caucus that "strives to govern in accordance with the values of the majority of South Dakota," according to a press release.

Abortion supporters claim that the majority of women want their so-called "reproductive rights" protected. The trend toward the opposite is reflected in our state legislature. Rep. Keri Weems stated, "I just turned 40 this year, and I think it's extremely important that women my age speak out and say that abortion hurts women. We want to not only protect women but also to protect babies."



Rep. Gillespie (D)



Rep. Glenski (D)



Rep. Heineman (R)



Sen. Bartling (D)



Rep. McCoy (R)



Rep. Miles (D)



Rep. Schafer (R)



Rep. Weems (R)



Rep. Hunhoff (R)



Rep. Kraus (R)



Rep. Krebs (R)