



Concerned Women for America of Georgia 2014 Legislative Session Wrap Up

The fast-paced 2014 Georgia legislative session came to a close on March 20. The 40-day session opened on January 13, and State Director Tanya Ditty represented your interests as a volunteer lobbyist with a physical presence at the State Capitol 38 of the 40 days.

Concerned Women for America's targeted issues are: **Sanctity of Life, Defense of Family, Education, Religious Liberty, National Sovereignty, Sexual Exploitation, and Support for Israel.** Legislation this session encompassed several of these core issues. On-the-ground lobbying efforts combined with grassroots prayer and action gets results! Without calls and e-mails from CWA members and friends, successes would have been more difficult to achieve. Below are the bills CWA of Georgia targeted for passage or defeat.

Common Core Standards Initiative

[SB 167](#), a bill that would begin the orderly withdrawal from the Common Core standards and aligned tests, and stop the intrusive data-tracking on Georgia students.

Legislative action: The state legislature failed to pass SB 167, and as a result Georgia will continue to align itself with the national standards and testing movement, In addition, the collection and tracking of student data by the Georgia Department of Education (GADOE) and private vendors will go unabated.

Recap of voting of SB167:

- [Passed unanimously out of Senate Education and Youth Committee.](#)
- [Passed out of full Senate.](#)
- [Failed to pass out of House Education Committee.](#)
- Sen. William Ligon presented two amendments on the floor of the Senate the last day of the session. The first amendment would have set forth clear legislative intent for Georgia to cease its participation in the national standards movement. The second amendment would have set restrictions on student data collection. Both amendments failed to pass.

What's next for the Common Core?

Over the past year and a half a groundswell of support has been growing all across this state to withdraw Georgia from the Common Core standards, national tests and the intrusive data-tracking system. Our fight continues to regain local control of education in Georgia! CWA of Georgia will not rest until we have reversed course and stopped the national standards movement in Georgia.

Be watching for the next steps in the battle for educational sovereignty.

Religious Freedom

[SB 377](#), a bill that mirrors federal legislation called the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). RFRA was signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1993 and was voted into federal law almost unanimously by Congress. This legislation is needed in our state in order to protect our churches and businesses from the assault against traditional marriage and from attacks against private property rights of businesses and individuals who, for religious reasons, choose not to offer services to same-sex couples or to offer abortion services. Without this law, our Georgia courts would be able to use government's coercive force against people with strong religious convictions.

Legislative action: The bill passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee but was not permitted to be brought to the full Senate for a vote. It was stopped in its tracks by the Chambers of Commerce and large corporations, such as Delta, Home Depot and UPS. Many groups, including CWA of Georgia, urged Gov. Nathan Deal and Lt. Governor Casey Cagle to call the bill up for a vote, but they turned a deaf ear.

Pro-Life

[SB 98](#), a bill that would prohibit state-sponsored insurance plans to pay for abortions.

Legislative action: The bill passed out of the Georgia legislature with no exceptions, and is on the way to Gov. Nathan Deal's desk for his signature. CWA of Georgia is grateful for the hard work of Georgia Right to Life and the Archdiocese for their incredible work on this bill.

Stand with Israel

Concerned Women for America's board of directors voted on May 8, 2013, to add to its core issues, [support for Israel](#). As an organization we will promote laws and policies that strengthen the ties between Israel and the U.S., and we will support policies enacted by our State Department, Department of Defense and others that encourage the development of our relationship with Israel. CWA of Georgia was proud to support the following Georgia resolutions:

[SR 739](#), a resolution to commend the nation of Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States and with the State of Georgia.

[SR 741](#), a resolution expressing support for the State of Israel.

Encourage-A-Legislator Prayer Project

This was CWA of Georgia's eleventh year to pray for and send note cards of encouragement to state legislators. Scripture commands us in I Timothy 2:2 to pray for "*kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness,*" and over 50 volunteers did just that! These volunteers prayed and encouraged 100 state legislators during the 40-day session.

2014 Legislative Session – CWA of Georgia in Action

Stop Common Core Rally and Lobby Day



Religious Freedom Rally

