



Spring Newsletter 2014



Protecting the Family Through Prayer and Action

Common Core Foes Charge Ahead

"The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next."
- Abraham Lincoln

At first glance, it appears that little progress was made to defeat Common Core this year. But we know that contentious issues often require time to educate legislators and parents to initiate change.

Rep. Jim Bolin (R-District 16-Canton) has been a champion in fighting Common Core in our state since 2011, and this year he welcomed other strong legislative allies to join the battle. We sat down with him near the end of this Legislative Session to evaluate the bills



relating to Common Core. Rep. Bolin expressed satisfaction in the progress that was made, and he stated, "We accomplished containment of Common Core. Even though we still have the standards in math and English language arts, a moratorium was placed on the adoption by the Board of Education of standards in any additional subjects." In addition to the two-year moratorium, SB64 requires a statewide public comment period.

Common Core is a national issue that is being opposed locally all over the nation. More and more parents who were never involved in such matters are rising up, educating themselves, and becoming alert to what their children are learning in school. This "sleeping giant" came to the South Dakota Capitol to lobby legislators and testify in committees. They

shared how their children are struggling and stressed, especially with math, and as parents they are unable to help.

Bolin's only disappointment was that HB1187 failed to receive enough votes to pass in House Education Committee in order for it to be debated in the full House. HB1187 would have clearly allowed parents to opt their children out of taking Smarter Balanced Assessments when those are administered starting in the 2014-2015 school year. Currently, South Dakota Codified Law 13-3-55 states, "Every public school district shall annually *administer* the same assessment to all students in grades three to eight, inclusive, and in grade eleven ..."

SB63, signed into law, purports to protect the privacy of students' records and other personal data. We supported this bill *with great reservation* because we are skeptical how private data can be kept secure under the agreement that South Dakota has with Smarter Balanced consortium. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said in a June 8, 2009, speech, "Hopefully, someday, we can track children from preschool to high school and from high school to college and college to career." South Dakota received

January 14 was opening day of the South Dakota Legislative Session. State Director Linda Schauer and Legislative Liaison Cindy Flakoll represented your interests as volunteer lobbyists with a physical presence 32 of the 38 legislative days at the Capitol. On-the-ground lobbying efforts combined with grassroots prayer and action are the key to upholding God-ordained family values. Contained in this newsletter are highlights of some of the bills with which CWA was involved. If you have questions regarding the bills or wish to know how your legislators voted, please feel free to call Linda at (605) 439-3630 or Cindy at (605) 358-8651.

federal dollars to build expensive high-tech systems to track student performance and personal/family data. The South Dakota Department of Education cites the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which mandates privacy of

student information. However, FERPA has been gutted by the Obama administration (without Congressional approval), rendering it useless.

We learned that the Next Generation Science Standards (Common Core) are being used in some South Dakota school districts at their own choosing, since any local school district is free to implement NGSS. We urge parents to research NGSS for themselves. One will find the standards deal heavily with radical environmentalism, global warming and evolution. Due to SB64, NGSS may not be approved by the South Dakota Board of Education for two years, and statewide public hearings must be conducted before *statewide* adoption of NGSS. We urge you to monitor your own school district to ensure NGSS are not adopted. The Heartland Institute, a conservative think tank that casts doubt on climate science, contends the Next Generation standards “convey an anti-human message regarding human activities, population growth and environmental impacts that is not scientifically justified.”

A Pro-Life Bill Receives Strong Support

“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” - Genesis 1:27

It seems absurd, but why would someone have an abortion simply because her baby is the wrong sex? That is what is occurring around the world where there are over 160 million “missing girls” who have been killed merely because they were girls.

Sadly, sex-selection abortions are not just a problem for other countries, they happen every day here in America. But according to a 2006 Zogby poll, sex-



selection abortions are opposed by over 86 percent of Americans.

Over-the-counter early testing reveals the sex of the unborn child, making it

tempting to eliminate the baby if he/she is the “undesired” sex. HB1162 makes it illegal to abort a child because the mother preferred one sex over another, and the abortion provider—not the woman seeking the abortion—could be prosecuted.

Sex-selection abortion is the ultimate violence against women and feeds into the idea that women are less valuable than men and are objects to be tossed aside. Every child deserves the right to live, regardless of her/his sex.

Our Founding Fathers clearly delineated the right to life as one that is unalienable and endowed by our Creator. It is horrific that in America today babies are being killed on the basis of their sex or race.

Rep. Bolin predicted that as parents and teachers become more and more aware of how intrusive and egregious Common Core is, it will collapse under its own weight. We liken it to a virus that must run its course, experience nasty symptoms, and be defeated.

Unfortunately, it is the children who must experience the symptoms of this “virus.”

- Linda Schauer, State Director

Remain Vigilant

- ✓ Educate yourself on Common Core
- ✓ Document objectionable lessons
- ✓ Be alert to additional subject standards
- ✓ Campaign for and support state legislative candidates who oppose Common Core
- ✓ Voice your concerns to your school board
- ✓ Write letters to the editor
- ✓ *Pray Common Core will be defeated!*

A Step to Restore Patriotism

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord”
- Psalm 33:12

Controversy in the Sioux Falls school district last year regarding the Pledge of Allegiance alerted citizens that patriotism is waning in the United States. Many citizens and veterans were appalled that opportunity to recite the pledge was not given, apparently because there was no time available.

This prompted Rep. Hal Wick (R-District 12-Sioux Falls), a veteran, to bring HB1150, “requiring that the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States be recited at the start of each school day in every public school. A student may choose not to participate,” ... but he must “maintain a respectful silence during the salute.”

We are pleased that HB1150 passed unanimously in the legislature and was signed into law. Our young citizens will also have the opportunity to learn the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance.

[Gateways to Better Education](#) has a beautiful glossy 11" x 22" poster of the Pledge with a brief explanation of each line. Why not order one for your child's classroom or one for each classroom in your school? You may [order directly](#), or I can send you a laminated one for \$10 each. Just send a check to Concerned Women for America of South Dakota, P.O. Box 343, Leola, SD 57456.



South Dakota: Land of Vice?

"...when we are judged by the Lord, we are chastened so that we may not be condemned along with the world."
- I Corinthians 11:32

Liquor and video lottery were topics addressed in a number of bills this legislative session. Some believe the more of these the better for our state's economic development. Deadwood, in particular, was the focus of several bills, since it appears the previous tactics of more gambling have failed to bring a windfall. But even a hired consultant questioned just what message the town is trying to portray when he stated that the town needs to "fine tune" its identity and make improvements to its image.

Law enforcement will now be able to do more to tackle underage drinking in South Dakota due to the passage of SB163, the "social host" bill. According to material compiled by Joyce Glynn, a mother whose son died in a motor vehicle accident after a graduation party, the purpose of a social host law is to deter underage drinking gatherings where adults *knowingly* allow minors to drink alcoholic beverages. South Dakota law remains the same when it comes to parental rights, since a parent is still not impeded from allowing his own child to consume alcohol in the presence of the parent. But the question was asked, "Do you think it's okay for any other adult to allow your child to drink alcohol on that adult's premises, regardless of the consequences?" Good parents will always answer a resounding "NO!" to that question.

Another liquor bill attempted to expand liquor sales and service to 24/7 (except Christmas Day) at certain larger hotel/bar/casinos. South Dakota law currently requires that no liquor is sold or served from 2:00 a.m. until 7:00 a.m. The owner of Cadillac Jacks of Deadwood testified in favor of the bill, along with other stakeholders who continue to believe gambling and alcohol are a mecca for those with mad money to burn. He and others spoke

of the need to cater to gamblers from Denver, as well as to compete with destinations in other states and on our reservations. Thankfully, HB1123 was defeated by the South Dakota Senate, but it had passed the House 36-33 just days before. A senator stated off the record that yes, he was getting calls from smaller business owners who wondered why the bill was only to allow larger--but not all--establishments to serve alcohol 24/7.

An attempt was made with SB180 to allow an increase in video lottery machines from 10 to 15 per establishment.

Subsequently, some smaller businesses would sell their machines to larger establishments. Machines with newer technology that appears to be faster and more addictive were also part of this discussion, and those new machines are already in businesses that can

afford the \$13,000 price tag. Older machines are becoming obsolete, and it is getting harder to maintain those. Was this bill an attempt by bigger business to shut down the smaller businesses, i.e., the competition? SB180 passed in the Senate, but saw its demise in the House by a vote of 26-44. A bill to increase the bet limit and eliminate the award limit, HB1246, also failed.

We agree that there is a need to "fine tune" when it comes to gambling and liquor in our state. More is not better. We told several legislators that we would like to see Deadwood re-brand itself to become like Branson, Missouri or other family-friendly, uplifting vacation destinations. Rather than another "Sin City," wouldn't it be fabulous for South Dakota to become the "second largest family entertainment capital of the world" after Branson? Would you, too, join us in letting legislators and officials know that the time is ripe to make that change?



Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence: Similarity or Dichotomy?

"They reap the field that is not their own, and gather the vintage of his vineyard." - Job 24:6

Are you aware that the latest "hot button" issue in South Dakota is human trafficking? South Dakota law states: *No person may recruit, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain, by any means, another person knowing that force, fraud, or coercion will be used to cause the person to engage in prostitution, forced labor, or involuntary servitude.*

Another issue on CWA's radar for several years is

domestic violence, which was studied last summer by a legislative committee during an Interim Session of the South Dakota Legislature. Several 2014 bills were the fruit of that study, as you will see below.

Attorney General Jackley spearheaded efforts by law enforcement against the forced prostitution of young women and children at the 2013 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, stating that officers are now trained to detect and

prevent human trafficking. Collaboration of area, state and federal law enforcement participating in online sting operations resulted in at least seven arrests of men, ages 19 to 54, seeking sex with underage girls. Jackley and other attorneys general are pushing Congress to beef-up federal laws to assist in state-level prosecution of websites which aid and abet sex trafficking by promoting prostitution ads.

SB25, a bill requested by Attorney General Jackley, is also imperative to prosecution efforts. The bill creates a procedure for forfeiture of personal property in child pornography, human trafficking, child solicitation or exploitation cases, and directs how the money from forfeitures is to be used, e.g., to compensate victims and for the South Dakota internet crimes against children fund. Rep. Jenna Haggar (R-District 10) also sponsored a bill, HB1161, whereby a victim of human trafficking may bring a civil cause of action, which means the victim can sue the trafficker or pimp for civil damages. Both bills were signed into law.

During the legislative session, I was invited into Attorney General Jackley's office and spent 40 minutes "brainstorming" with him and his senior assistant over the language of two "domestic violence" bills. Mr. Jackley and Mr. McGuigan, too, shared CWA's concerns

that these bills could potentially be amended to change our laws that protect traditional marriage. We had previously experienced radical leftist legislators' attempts to insert their agenda into law, claiming that changes were needed to obtain federal grants, yet these legislators produced no evidence of that need.

The terms "family and household members" were removed from some laws this session, and we continue to have grave reservations about the actions of legislators who on the one hand want women, children and all persons to be protected from violence, but on the other

hand work to undermine traditional, Christian values that are the only sure protection for women, underage girls and boys and all vulnerable citizens.

Traditional marriage--rather than cohabitation, same-sex "unions," adult-child perversions and coercive bondage--is God's sacred and beautiful plan for mankind since the beginning of time. Those who attempt to cloud that plan with words like "tolerance" and "lifestyle choices" are not to be trusted.

Similarity or dichotomy: you decide.

- Cindy Flakoll, Legislative Liaison



The Honor and Remember Flag Honors Our Fallen

"That we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom..." - Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address

South Dakota became the 18th state to approve a resolution (HCR1012) *Recognizing the honor and remember flag as the designated symbol of South Dakota's concern and commitment to honoring and remembering all members of the United States Armed Forces who have lost their lives while serving, or as a result of service, and their families.*

According to the Honor and Remember Flag website, "In the more than 200 years of our nation's history there has never been an officially

designated symbol that reminds us specifically of the sacrifice made by members of our military and their lives lost in service to our country. We propose the Honor and Remember Flag as the national emblem for that purpose."



Concerned Women for America of South Dakota deeply appreciates all who have served and are currently serving in defense of our nation. We will be reminded of

their sacrifice whenever we see this beautiful flag flying in our state.

A
Little
Chuckle



"Texas Democrat Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee said the Constitution is 400 years old. And to be fair, according to Common Core, it is ..."

-Jodi Miller, comedienne, Newsbusters