

Concerned Women for America of Texas

SCORE CARD FOR THE 84TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Before the session began, CWA leaders, in conversations with House and Senate leaders, expressed their desire to see family friendly legislation passed. The priorities at that time were:

- The Religious Liberty Amendment
- Taxpayer Savings Grants
- American Law for American Courts
- Strengthening Judicial By-Pass Requirements
- Strengthening End-of-Life Conditions
- UIL Homeschool Inclusion

Subsequent to the opening of the session, CWA created a list of over 200 filed bills and placed them on a "Watch List." Of those it became apparent that several were of critical importance.

- Protecting Texas Marriage Laws
- Protecting Pastors Religious Freedom
- Protecting Adoption Agencies Religious Freedom
- Protecting Cities and Counties from Rogue Ordinances
- Protecting minors from coerced abortions

This is a brief summary of the actions on those issues. CWA of Texas was actively engaged in the legislative process with each of these pieces of legislation:

- 1. SJR 10 and HJR 125, The Religious Liberty Amendment** to the Texas Constitution. This bill would have required no signature from the Governor but ratification of the people of Texas in the fall election. The purpose of the bill was to put into our Texas constitution the essence of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act passed by the legislature in 1999 and signed by then Gov. Bush which reiterated the rights of the people to express their sincerely-held, religious beliefs in any venue where secular beliefs are expressed. In today's contentious society, Christians are finding themselves persecuted and silenced for following the dictates of their conscience. CWA worked fervently seeking co-authors for each bill. We visited offices and wrote letters asking the legislators to support this bill. We sought the support of both State Affairs Committee Chairmen, Sen. Joan Huffman and Rep. Byron Cook, asking for a hearing for these bills in their respective chambers. Sen. Donna Campbell authored the Senate bill and 3 of the 31 senators co-authored. Rep. Matt Krause authored the House version and 13 of 150 representatives co-authored. So much for legislators protecting the liberties of Christian constituents!
- 2. SB 267 and HB 4106, The Taxpayer Savings Grant to Texas Families.** This bill would have granted a Texas family the right to direct up to 60 percent of the state allotment monies for the education of their child to a private school of their choice with the remaining 40 percent residing in the state budget to be allocated as the state determined. Sen. Larry Taylor called the bill for a hearing on March 26, 2015. After a lengthy debate with dozens of witnesses, this bill was left pending, and a bill that allowed corporations to give tax-deductible money into a scholarship fund for needy children—a drop in the bucket toward real reform that would give parents viable options for their child's education—was passed. Sen. Donna Campbell championed this bill, and only one senator co-authored out of 31. The fate of the bill in the House was even bleaker! Freshman representative, Gilbert Pena, authored the bill, and only one Representative joined him. Rep. Jimmy Don Aycock, Chairman of the House Education Committee, never called the bill up for a hearing. So much for legislators helping families who have limited education options - many of which are currently failing our children.

3. **SB 391 and HB 347, The UIL-Homeschool Inclusion bill.** This bill, nicknamed the “Tim Tebow Bill,” would have allowed homeschool students to compete in University Interscholastic League competitions, sports, music, arts, debates, etc., in the district where they live. (Parents have not been exempted from school taxes because they homeschool their children.) In spite of rhetoric to the contrary, no additional regulations would have been required for homeschooling families. It simply gave homeschool children a level footing in competing for state and national recognition. It was authored in the Senate by Sen. Konni Burton and had 1 of 31 senators co-authoring. It was never given a hearing in the Education Committee chaired by Sen. Larry Taylor. HB 347 was authored by Democrat representative, Harold Dutton. It had nine other bi-partisan co-authors out of 150 representatives. It was never given a hearing in the House Education Committee chaired by Rep. Jimmie Don Aycock. So much for legislators helping families help their children with greater opportunities and a better future.
4. **SB 531 and HB 562, American Law for American Courts.** This bill would have protected citizens from the abuse of Texas judges who refuse to adjudicate and enforce the United States and Texas constitutional protections when challenged by conflicting foreign contract law. This bill was limited to marriage dissolution and child custody cases where the victims are usually disadvantaged women and children. HB 562, authored by Rep. Jeff Leach and co-authored by 54 representatives, was granted a hearing in the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee on April 16, 2015, in ample time to be considered for floor debate. It was not considered in Calendars until May 12, 2015. All House bills were required to be heard in the House Chamber before midnight on May 14. (The House, in past sessions, has required Saturday sessions to complete its work. Speaker Joe Straus called a recess on May 2, so the members could watch the Kentucky Derby and another on Saturday, May 9, to prepare for Mother’s Day.) This bill was assigned the last spot on the Thursday, May 14, calendar obviously consigning it to defeat—all bills on the Wednesday or Thursday calendars died. SB 531, authored by Sen. Donna Campbell and co-authored by six senators, was tardy in being heard in the Senate State Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. Joan Huffman. It was not until May 4, that it was heard. It was revised and voted out of committee and passed in the Senate on May 22. It was passed by the House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee and sent to the Calendars Committee where Rep. Todd Hunter is Chairman. On May 24, it failed to be sent to the House for consideration because two Republican representatives, Patricia Harless and Debbie Riddle, changed their support and voted no on its passage, as well as Rep. Byron Cook who was “present, not voting.” So much for legislators protecting women and children in life-altering moments.
5. **HB 3994 – The Judicial By-Pass Act.** The bill, authored by Rep. Geanie Morrison, was designed to remediate a deficiency in current law which allows minors seeking an abortion to by-pass a parent’s consent for an abortion by appealing to a judge. As a condition of affirming the parental consent law, The United States Supreme Court mandated this exception be available to teens. This judicial by-pass has been used by the predatory abortion industry to circumvent parental consent by directing pregnant minors to “friendly judges” in distant counties. This bill now requires the request be made in the minor’s county of residence or an adjoining county if the county of residence is less than 10,000 in population. In addition, reporting requirements were put in place to monitor its use. It was heard in the House State Affairs Committee on April 22; debated on the House floor on May 13. Sen. Charles Perry sponsored it in the Senate, and it was passed on May 26 and again in the House on May 29. It was sent to the Governor for his signature.
6. **HB 3074 - The Texas Advance Directives Act.** The Bill analysis reads: “Artificial nutrition and hydration can be beneficial for patients who are unable to consume food or water and can prolong life for months or even years. While artificial nutrition and hydration does not cure any terminal or irreversible illness, it can have a positive impact on a patient's health under the right circumstances. The current Texas advance directives law lacks clarity given the complexity of end-of-life care and its most glaring flaw is allowing food, water, and pain medication to be withdrawn with no medical standard for their withdrawal. [This bill] amends the Texas Advance Directives Act to require that artificial nutrition and hydration be provided to a patient unless it: hastens the patient's death; exacerbates life-threatening medical problems not outweighed by the medical benefit; causes substantial irremediable pain that cannot be relieved and is not outweighed by the medical benefit; is medically ineffective in prolonging life; or is in conflict with the patient's documented wishes. H.B. 3074 requires the continued provision of life-sustaining treatment for up to 10 days from the time the patient is

given both the hospital ethics committee's written decision that the continuance of treatment is not appropriate and the patient's medical record." While this is an improvement over the current statute, CWA maintains that a 10-day limit by a committee to determine the treatment of a patient infringes upon the patient's rights and is unrealistic. The bill, authored by Rep. Drew Springer, had 85 bi-partisan co-authors. It has been sent to the Governor for his signature.

- 7. SB 673 - HB 4105 – The Marriage Protection Act.** This bill would force issuers of marriage licenses in the state of Texas to follow the rule of law with regard to issuing marriage licenses in the state. It was filed in the House by Rep. Cecil Bell on March 13, 2015. It was referred to the House State Affairs Committee, chaired by Rep. Byron Cook, on March 23. It received a hearing in committee on April 8. It was left pending. Then a committee substitute was offered and considered on May 6. It was sent to House Calendars Committee, chaired by Rep. Todd Hunter, on May 7, and placed on the House Calendar on May 12, which was the deadline for the House to distribute the last House Daily Calendar with house bills and Joint resolutions. It was placed in the middle of the regular calendar list. On May 12, when the House began business that day, they were already behind schedule and were still hearing bills from the previous Friday's Calendar. This caused the bill to die without floor debate. A similar, but not identical bill was filed in the Senate: SB 673, authored by Sen. Charles Perry. It had five co-authors. It was referred to Senate State Affairs committee, chaired by Sen. Joan Huffman, and was never given a hearing.
- 8. SB 2065 – HB 3567 – The Pastor Protection Act.** This bill would protect pastors from being forced to perform any marriage ceremony that goes against their sincerely-held religious belief. HB 3567 was filed on March 12, 2015, by Rep. Scott Sanford. It was referred to the House State Affairs Committee, chaired by Rep. Byron Cook, on March 23, but didn't actually receive a hearing until April 22. It was left pending until it was sent to House Calendars Committee, chaired by Rep. Todd Hunter, on May 7. The Calendars Committee did not place it on the actual calendar until May 12, the deadline for the House to distribute the last House Daily Calendar with house bills. It should be noted that it was placed at the bottom of the list. (The Chairman of the Calendars Committee determines the position of a bill on the calendar.) On May 12, the House started business that day already behind schedule and was still hearing bills from the previous Friday's calendar. HB 3567 had a total of 83 co-authors and four joint authors. Special commendation goes to Rep. Scott Sanford for authoring and fighting for this bill, even as it was worked through the Senate. The companion to HB 3567 was SB 2065. It had a different story. It was filed by Sen. Craig Estes on April 28, and it quickly received a hearing on May 4. It was sent directly to the Senate floor, passed to engrossment and was sent to the House on May 12. The House managed to pass it with a majority, 143-2, on a record vote on May 22. Special commendation goes to Lt. Governor Dan Patrick for temporarily suspending the Senate rules in order for SB 2065 to be authored and voted favorably through the Senate. Also, special commendation goes to Sen. Craig Estes for authoring this bill and defending it in committee, fending off amendments that would have fundamentally changed the bill, rendering it ineffective for its intended purpose.
- 9. HB 3864 – The Protection for Religious Adoption Agencies.** HB 3864 by Rep. Scott Sanford was filed on March 13, 2015, and would have protected the religious liberties and rights of conscience for faith-based foster/adoption agencies. It had a hearing in Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee on April 15 and then referred to the Calendars committee on April 29 where it died, even after repeated e-mail and call campaigns to the Chair of Calendars, Rep. Todd Hunter, and the rest of the committee. Thank you to Rep. Sanford who worked hard to then offer this as an amendment on a child protective services sunset bill by Rep. Cindy Burkett, but it was not accepted onto the sunset bill. He had no choice then but to drop the amendment and work at getting it offered by Sen. Campbell onto a bill by Sen. Estes. Thank you to Sen. Estes for being willing to help us add this as an amendment. It was killed though in the Senate on a point of order by Sen. Kirk Watson. We had to try offering it as an amendment in the Senate because we could not get a hearing all session on the Senate Companion, SB 1935, by Sen. Donna Campbell. The Michigan Legislature just passed the same bill, and it was signed by their Governor. Texas should have led on this issue, but instead, Michigan had the courage to pass this and Texas did not.

- 10. SB 831 – HB 1648 – The Anti-Coercion Act.** This bill would have strengthened abortion coercion laws. HB 1648 was filed on February 19 by Rep. Molly White. It was not referred to the House State Affairs, chaired by Rep. Byron Cook, until March 9 and did not receive a hearing until April 29. The Committee Chairman required the author to accept amendments to the bill that would have weakened the provisions. She pulled the bill. The companion bill, SB 831, was filed by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst on February 26. It was referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. Joan Huffman, where it did not receive a hearing and died in that committee.
- 11. SB 1155 – HB 1556 – The Protection from Rogue City Ordinances** HB 1556 by Rep. Rick Miller and SB 1155 by Sen. Bob Hall did not even receive a hearing. These bills would have prohibited a county, municipality, or other political subdivision from creating new protected classes of citizens that are not defined by state law. They would have prevented what we have seen occur in Plano, Houston, San Antonio, Austin and other cities where city ordinances have been passed regarding the use of bathroom and dressing room facilities to be used by the opposite sex, etc. We were told repeatedly that a hearing would not be allowed in the House Urban Affairs committee, chaired by Democrat Rep. Carol Alvarado and in the Senate State Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. Joan Huffman, because there was “no appetite” for this bill in the House or Senate.
- 12. VOTE FOR HOUSE SPEAKER.** In 2009, Rep. Joe Straus of San Antonio aligned himself with 65 Democrats and 11 Republicans to become Speaker of the Texas House. He has held his majority by providing Democrats with legislation passed to reward their support. In the 2013 session, 52 percent of all legislation passed was authored by Democrats as opposed to 48 percent by Republicans in a house where 66 percent of the members were Republican, and 33 percent were Democrats. Straus has rewarded several Democrats with responsible committee chairmanships. In subsequent bienniums, conservative Republicans have challenged his leadership to no avail. This session Rep. Scott Turner ran a year-long campaign to unseat him. CWA was a proud endorser of this effort. The vote on January 13, 2015, was 19 for Scott Turner and 128 for Joe Straus. As in the past, those who voted against Straus have seen their efforts to pass conservative legislation stifled. CWA rewarded the valiant legislators who stood on principle with extra points in this Report Card.

1	SJR 10 - HJR 125	Religious Freedom Amendment to the Texas Constitution
2	SB 276 - HB 4106	Taxpayer Savings Grant for School Vouchers
3	SB 391 - HB 347	University Interscholastic League Acceptance of Homeschoolers in Competitions
4	SB 531 - HB 562	American Law for American Courts
5	HB 3994	Strengthening Judicial By-Pass Requirements - No Senate companion
6	HB 3074	Strengthening End of Life Conditions for Terminal Patients - No Senate companion
7	SB 673 - SB 4105	Protecting Texas Marriage Laws from Rogue Clerks
8	SB 2065 - HB 3567	Pastor Protection Act
9	HB 3864	Adoption Agencies Religious Beliefs Protections - No Senate Companion
10	SB 831 - HB 1648	Abortion Coercion Laws Strengthened
11	SB 1155 - HB 1556	Protection from Rogue City and County Ordinances
12	Speaker Vote	Scoring for a Vote for Scott Turner - Only in House

Scoring:

10 points extra for being the primary author of a bill

10 points for being a co-author of a bill

10 points for voting for a bill

10 points for voting for Scott Turner (CWA supported)

Points	Senators	Dist. #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
130	Campbell, Donna	25	20	20		30	10	10		20	20			
120	Hall, Bob	2	10			20	10	20	10	20		10	20	
110	Perry, Charles	28	10			20	20	10	20	20		10		
100	Taylor, Van	8	10		10	20	10	10	10	20		10		
80	Huffines, Don	16				20	10	10	10	20		10		
80	Kolkhorst, Lois	18				20	10	10		20		20		
70	Bettencourt, Paul	7		10		10	10	10	10	10		10		
60	Burton, Konni	10			20	10		10		10		10		
60	Creighton, Brandon	4				10	10	10		20		10		
60	Hancock, Kelly	9				20		10		20		10		
60	Schwertner, Charles	5				10	10	30		10				
40	Birdwell, Brian	22				10		10		20				
40	Estes, Craig	30						10		30				
40	Lucio, Jr., Eddie	27					10	20		10				
40	Nelson, Jane	12				10	10	10		10				
40	Nichols, Robert	3				10		10	10	10				
30	Eltife, Kevin	1				10		10		10				
30	Fraser, Troy	24				10		10		10				
30	Huffman, Joan	17				10		10		10				
30	Seliger, Kel	31				10		10		10				
30	Taylor, Larry	11						10		20				
20	Hinojosa, "Chuy"	20				10		10						
10	Ellis, Rodney	13						10						
10	Garcia, Sylvia	6						10						
10	Menendez, Jose	26						10						
10	Rodriguez, Jose	29						10						
10	Uresti, Carlos	19						10						
10	Watson, Kirk	14						10						
10	West, Royce	23						10						
10	Whitmire, John	15						10						
10	Zaffarini, Judith	21						10						

Representatives

140	Leach, Jeff	67	10		10	20	20	20	10	20	10	10		10
140	Sanford, Scott	70	10			10	20	20	10	30	20	10		10
130	Krause, Matt	93	20			10	20	20	10	20	10	10		10
120	Miller, Rick	26				10	20	20	10	20	10	10	20	
120	Turner, Scott	33	10			10	20	20	10	20		10	10	10
110	Hughes, Bryan	5	10			10	10	20	10	20	10	10		10
110	Keough, Mark	15				10	20	20	10	20	10	10		10
110	Rinaldi, Matt	115	10			10	10	20	10	20		10	10	10
110	Schaefer, Matt	6	10			10	20	10	10	20		10	10	10
110	Tinderholt, Tony	94	10			10	20	20	10	20		10		10
110	White, James	19	10		10		20	20	10	20	10	10		
110	White, Molly	55		10	10	10	10	20	10	20			10	10
110	Zedler, Bill	96				10	20	20	10	20		10	10	10
100	Anderson, Rodney	105				10	20	20	10	20		10		10
100	Bonnen, Greg	24				10	20	20	10	20	10	10		
100	Capriglione, Giovanni	98	10			10	20	20	10	20		10		

100	Frank, James	69		10	10	20	20	10	20		10	
100	Huberty, Dan	127	10	10		20	20	10	20		10	
100	Simmons, Ron	65	10		10	20	20	10	20		10	
100	Simpson, David	7				20	20	10	20		10	10
90	Bell, Cecil	3			10	10	20	20	20		10	
90	Burkett, Cindy	113	10		10	20	20	10	20			
90	Burns, Dwayne	58			10	20	20	10	20		10	
90	Burrows, Dustin	83				20	20	10	20		10	10
90	Fallon, Pat	106		10	10	20	10	10	20			10
90	Farney, Marsha	20			10	20	20	10	20		10	
90	Kuempel, John	44			10	20	20	10	20		10	
90	Laubenberg, Jodie	89	10	10	10	20	10	10	20			
90	Metcalf, Will	16			10	20	20	10	20		10	
90	Murphy, Jim	133			10	20	20	10	20		10	
90	Parker, Tan	63			10	20	20	10	20		10	
90	Paul, Dennis	129			10	10	20	10	20		10	10
90	Pena, Gilbert	144		20		20	20	10	10		10	
90	Phillips, Larry	62			10	20	20	10	20		10	
90	Riddle, Debbie	150			10	10	20	10	20	10	10	
90	Shaheen, Matt	66			10	10	20	10	20		10	10
90	Springer, Drew	68			10	10	30	10	20		10	
90	Stickland, Jonathan	92			10	10	20	10	20		10	10
80	Anderson, "Doc"	56				20	20	10	20		10	
80	Ashby, Trent	57				20	20	10	20		10	
80	Bohac, Dwayne	138				20	20	10	20		10	
80	Faircloth, Wayne	23				20	20	10	20		10	
80	Flynn, Dan	2			10	20	20	10	20			
80	Goldman, Craig	97				20	20	10	20		10	
80	Isaac, Jason	45			10	20	20	10	20			
80	Keffer, Jim	60			10	10	20	10	20		10	
80	King, Phil	61			10	20	10	10	20		10	
80	Morrison, Geanie	30				30	20	10	20			
80	Spitzer, Stuart	4			10	10	20	10	20			10
80	VanDeaver, Gary	1				20	20	10	20		10	
80	Villalba, Jason	114		10	10	20	20		20			
80	Wray, John	10			10	20	20	10	20			
70	Bonnen, Dennis	25			10	20	10	10	20			
70	Button, Angie	112			10	10	20	10	20			
70	Dale, Tony	136			10	20	20		20			
70	Elkins, Gary	135			10	10	10	10	20		10	
70	Fletcher, Allen	130			10	10	20	10	20			
70	Galindo, Rick	117				20	20	10	10		10	
70	Harless, Patricia	126			10	10	20	10	20			
70	Kacal, Kyle	12				20	20	10	10		10	
70	Klick, Stephanie	91				20	20	10	10			10
70	Landgraf, Brooks	81				20	20	10	20			
70	Larson, Lyle	122			10	10	20	10	20			
70	Murr, Andrew	53				20	20	10	20			
70	Phelan, Dade	21				10	20	10	20		10	
70	Schofield, Mike	132				20	20	10	10		10	

70	Stephenson, Phil	85	10	20	10	20	10
70	Zerwas, John	28		20	20	10	20
60	Aycock, Jimmie Don	54		10	20	10	20
60	Cook, Byron	8		10	20	10	20
60	Crownover, Myra	64		10	20	10	20
60	Cyrier, John	17		10	20	10	20
60	Darby, Drew	72		10	20	10	20
60	Fruzzo, John	84		20	10	10	20
60	Gonzales, Larry	52		20	10	10	20
60	Lozano, J M	43		10	20	10	20
60	Meyer, Morgan	105	10	10	20		20
60	Miller, Doug	73	10	10	10	10	20
60	Paddie, Chris	9		10	20	10	20
60	Raney, John	14		20	10	10	20
60	Sheets, Kenneth	107	10	10	20		20
60	Sheffield, J.D.	59		10	20	10	20
60	Thompson, Ed	29	10	10	10	10	20
60	Workman, Paul	47		20	10	10	20
50	Clardy, Travis	11		10	10	10	20
50	Otto, John	18		20		10	20
50	Price, Four	87		10	10	10	20
50	Schubert, Leighton	13			20	10	10
50	Smith, Wayne	128		20	10	10	10
50	Smithee, John	86		10	10		20
40	Craddick, Tom	82		10	20	10	
40	Dutton, Harold	142	20		10		10
40	Geren, Charlie	99		10	10	10	10
40	Guillen, Ryan	31		10	20		10
40	Hunter, Todd	32		10	20		10
40	King, Ken	88		10	10	10	10
40	King, Susan	71		10		10	20
40	Turner, Sylvester	139			20		20
30	Deshotel, Joe	22		10	10		10
30	Gonzalez, Mary	75			10		20
30	Howard, Donna	48		10	10		10
30	Koop, Linda	102		10	10		10
30	Moody, Joe	78	10		10		10
30	Oliveira, Rene	37			10		20
20	Allen, Alma	131			10		10
20	Alonzo, Roberto	104			10		10
20	Alvarado, Carol	145			10		10
20	Bernal, Diego	123			10		10
20	Blanco, Cesar	76			10		10
20	Coleman, Garnet	147			10		10
20	Collier, Nicole	95			10		10
20	Davis, Sarah	134			10		10
20	Davis, Yvonne	111			10		10
20	Farias, Joe	118			10		10
20	Farrar, Jessica	148			10		10
20	Giddings, Helen	109			10		10

20	Guerra, "Bobby"	41	10	10
20	Gutierrez, Roland	119	10	10
20	Hernandez-Luna, Ana	143	10	10
20	Israel, Celia	50	10	10
20	King, Tracy	80	10	10
20	Longoria, Oscar	35	10	10
20	Martinez, "Mando"	39	10	10
20	Martinez-Fischer, Trey	116	10	10
20	Munoz, Sergio	36	10	10
20	Naishtat, Elliott	49	10	10
20	Nevarez, Poncho	74	10	10
20	Pickett, Joe	79	10	10
20	Raymond, Richard	42	10	10
20	Rodriguez, Eddie	51	10	10
20	Romero, Jr. Ramon	90	10	10
20	Rose, Toni	110	10	10
20	Thompson, Senfronia	141	10	10
20	Turner, Chris	101	10	10
20	Vo, Hubert	149	10	10
20	Wu, Gene	137	10	10
10	Canales, Terry	40	10	
10	Herrero, Abel	34		10
10	Johnson, Eric	100	10	
10	Lucio, III, Eddie	38	10	
10	Marques, Marisa	77		10
10	McClendon, Ruth			
10	Jones	120		10
10	Miles, Borris	146		10
10	Minjarez, Ina	124	10	
10	Rodriguez, Justin	125		10
10	Walle, Armando	140		10
	Anchia, Rafael	103		
	Dukes, Dawnna	46		
	Reynolds, Ron	27		
	Straus, Joe	121		

Speaker of the House casts no formal votes