



Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all things give thanks!

Dear Faithful Friend,

Merry Christmas from Concerned Women for America (CWA) of North Dakota! It is from the season of Thanksgiving we usher in the celebration of Christ's holy and glorious birth; "Immanuel, God with us," filling hearts with hope for the New Year.

The reason for the season remains forever. Let's rejoice with the multitude of the heavenly host for that wondrous night! "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men." Luke 2:14

We have come to the end of another year, and CWA of North Dakota is again grateful for your participation. Your prayers are always worthy and your involvement outstanding. Without you our work would not have been fruitful.

During the legislative session in North Dakota, our state CWA leaders took an active role by attending hearings, lobbying and informing our members on issues affecting the family and our Judeo-Christian values. As God's people, we were committed to both prayer and action.

Our Encourage-A-Legislator Program Coordinator, Karen Anderson, ran the 2015 state campaign in which men and women prayed for state legislators and sent postcard messages of encouragement during the legislative session. Whether they were conservative or liberal, our legislators were in need of both prayer and encouragement. CWA of North Dakota delivered! A special thanks to those who participated.

As Interim State Director, I presented [testimony](#) in January at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing concerning prevention of and remedies for human trafficking. We advocated for sound policies that "end demand" and protect those who are most vulnerable, believing it is important to increase prosecutions against exploiters and mandate consistent strict enforcement of laws regarding pornography, prostitution and sexual slavery. SB 2107, which provides further protections for women and children, passed.

In February, Beth Brown provided [testimony](#) to the House Education Committee in support of a bill to withdraw North Dakota from the Smarter Balance Test Consortium and the implementation of Common Core Standards. This is yet another government entity taking parent and local school district control out of the education process. Unfortunately, despite the testimony from hundreds of educational professionals and parents, this law failed to pass.

Also in February, I provided [testimony](#) against a bill that placed sexual orientation and self-perceived gender identity as a protected class. This law would add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to legal or corporate nondiscrimination codes and in turn, discriminate against people with traditional views. This bill failed to pass!

Janne Myrdal and I attended the Road to Majority Conference in Washington, D.C., in June, an event co-sponsored by the Faith and Freedom Coalition and CWA. It was thrilling to hear from presidential candidates, conservative media personalities, pastors, pro-family leaders and more. Janne was honored to sit on the Pro-Life Women's Panel with three other national leaders. In a packed room, the woman panelists

Concerned Women for America of North Dakota

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provided information and strategy for future pro-life victories! In addition we enjoyed wonderful sessions with our fellow CWA leaders from around the country as we inspired, encourage and strategized with one another.

In September Janne traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend the Stop the Iran Deal Rally on the lawn of the Capitol, lobby North Dakota representatives and attend hearings before the House Judiciary concerning the Planned Parenthood selling baby parts. Janne was [interviewed](#) about this trip, including the reception she received at Sen. Heidi Heitkamp's office, on the 6:30 Point Of View show.

CWA of North Dakota is grateful for the many phone calls and e-mails you sent throughout the year! Together we have been a voice on a state level concerning abortion, human trafficking, redefinition of marriage, Common Core, protection and safe harbors for children and women caught in prostitution and more. And on a national level we took a stand on abortion, redefinition of marriage, the Iran Deal and more. All of these issues needed a voice. Together, we were that voice!

There are a few changes in CWA of North Dakota leadership as I have taken the position of State Director and Janne Myrdal will be our Director of Media. Beth Brown will continue as our Prayer/Action Chapter Coordinator.

As we go forth into 2016 together, we ask you to consider the several ways you can be involved. You are needed.

- Prayer.** Please regularly pray with us for CWA's role in North Dakota. Pray for our steering committee as we make plans for 2016.
- Prayer/Action Chapters.** Consider starting a [Prayer/Action Chapter](#) in your community. We would like to develop Chapters across the state to educate attendees about the issues so that they will pray and take action. "Prayer/Action Chapters are the backbone of Concerned Women for America." Beverly LaHaye
- E-Alert Response Team.** Commit to faithfully pray and act on the e-alerts we send out and forward them on to friends and family. Sign up today if you aren't already on the list by e-mailing us at director@northdakota.cwfa.org.
- Partner with CWA of North Dakota through your financial support.** Because CWA of North Dakota is run by volunteers, all donations go straight into the work at hand. There are two ways to contribute your tax-deductible gift. You can send a check written out to CWA of North Dakota to the address below or click [here](#) to donate online. When you give to the state all funds are used in state. When you give to CWA national, all funds are used on a national level.

To read testimony, e-mails, view/listen to interviews, contribute and more, go to our website at nd.cwfa.org.

Know that your involvement, financial gifts and prayers could not be more appreciated. It is a joy to serve with you. Together we can be that steady force of prayerful people who are unwavering in our assurance that God reigns and through Him all is achieved.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!



Linda Thorson
State Director