



Concerned Women for America of Maine *News Report*

Committed to giving you a voice at the State Capitol

June 2017

Maine Legislation Update Since the May *News Report*

To read bill, view current status and more, click on the blue bill number.

Legislation Concluded:

L.D. #347, “An Act to Support Death with Dignity.” Sponsor: Sen. Roger Katz (R-Kennebec). The bill authorizes a physician to prescribe a medication that the patient may self-administer to hasten death. A hearing was held on April 5, and Penny testified before the committee. Click [here](#) to read the testimony. **Status:** The bill passed by one vote in the Senate; however, it lost in the House by 24 votes. Physician-Assisted Suicide has been defeated for the third time in the Maine Legislature. **We praise God for victory on our most important issue this session!**



L.D. #356, “An Act to Repeal Certain Requirements for Graduation from Secondary School.” Sponsor: Rep. Heidi Sampson (R-Alfred). This bill would remove teachers from the role of playing psychologist and keep them focused on teaching. Click [here](#) to read the testimony. **Status: Sadly, this bill did not pass.**

L.D. #1168, (Also known as Marsy’s Law.) “RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish a Victims' Bill of Rights” Sponsored by President of the Senate Michael Thibodeau (R-Winterport). This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to enact a Victims' Bill of Rights, designed to ensure specific rights for victims of crime. The purpose of this resolution is to place various rights regarding notification of public proceedings at which the victim has a right to be heard, the right to confer with the prosecution and the right to prompt and full restitution into the Constitution of Maine. This resolution requires a court to grant a request by the victim to enforce the rights of the victim and to provide a remedy for violations of the victim's rights, including the

Concerned Women for
America of Maine

State Director:
Penny Morrell

864 Manchester Road
Belgrade, ME 04917

me.cwfa.org

director@maine.cwfa.org
207-465-6015



appeal of a sentence. Penny included a moving personal story within her testimony. Click [here](#) to read testimony. **Status:** The Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee decided to wait until next year to vote on the bill.

L.D. #96, “An Act to Improve Attendance at Public Elementary Schools.” Sponsor: Sen. Nathan Libby. The bill would require children to start school at five years of age if their parents enrolled them then instead of at age seven. The bill was amended and received the support of the homeschool community. Click [here](#) to read the testimony. **Status:** The bill passed into law as amended. Although CWA of Maine opposed L.D. #96, with the amendment, we are satisfied with the outcome. **Feedback:** It was very rewarding to learn that so many of our supporters reached out to lawmakers. Because of you, the sponsor of the bill worked with Rep. Heidi Sampson (R-Alfred) to address your concerns.

L.D. #903, “An Act to Protect Rights and Privileges Granted under the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Maine.” Sponsor: Rep. Heidi Sampson (R-Alfred). This bill will prohibit Sharia or any other law from being practiced in Maine courts in the interest of protecting American citizens’ constitutional rights. Click [here](#) to read testimony. **Status:** the bill was tabled in the Judiciary Committee; thus, it will not be addressed again until next year.

Legislation Still In Need of Your Attention:

L.D. #366, “An Act To Ensure Compliance with Federal Immigration Law by State and Local Government Entities.” Sponsor: Rep. Lawrence Lockman (R-Amherst). This bill establishes prohibitions concerning restricting the sharing and use of immigration and citizenship information. It prohibits restricting the enforcement of federal immigration law. It authorizes law enforcement agencies to transport aliens who are unlawfully present in the United States to a federal facility. It establishes a complaint process, a private right of action and a duty to report. Penny Morrell testified against the bill and you can read her testimony [here](#). **Status:** In the Committee on Judiciary. ***If you have not yet taken action:*** Contact the [members of the committee](#), and ask them to vote “YES” on L.D. #366

L.D. #1416, “An Act to Amend High School Diploma Standards.” Sponsored by Rep. Heidi Sampson (R-Alfred.) This bill amends the requirements for a high school diploma and adds new subjects to those requirements. Penny Morrell testified against the bill and you can view the testimony [here](#). **Status:** In the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. ***If you have not yet taken action:*** Contact the [members of the committee](#), and ask them to vote “YES” on L.D. #1416

L.D. #327, “An Act To Allow a Wrongful Death Cause of Action for the Death of a Viable Fetus.” Sponsor: Rep. Eleanor Espling (R-New Gloucester). This bill provides for a cause of action for the wrongful death of an unborn viable fetus that has reached 24 or more weeks of gestation. **Status:** In the Committee on Judiciary. ***If you have not yet taken action:*** Contact the [members of the committee](#), and ask them to vote “YES” on L.D. #327

L.D. #745, “An Act To Prohibit Female Genital Mutilation.” Sponsor: Rep. Heather Sirocki (R-Scarborough). This bill makes it a Class B crime to perform female genital mutilation on a female person under 18 years of age for nonmedical purposes. **Status:** In the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety and a hearing has not been scheduled. ***If you have not yet taken action:*** Contact the [members of the committee](#), and ask them to vote “YES” on L.D. #745.



Note:
When contacting a legislator's office, be sure to let them know you are a member of Concerned Women for America of Maine. They need to know that CWA of Maine means business.

Scripture of the Month

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.” (1 Tim 2:1-2)

Prayer Makes the Difference

Please continue to pray for your state legislators and CWA of Maine. Prayer does make a profound difference in our world when Christians diligently cry out to the Lord. Consider the obstacles the first American settlers endured. They didn't give up. They endured hardship, worked hard, and kept praying. As a result, they enjoyed years of freedom and bountiful resources. Now, it is our turn to pray for our country, state, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, unborn children, and much more.

Encouragers are Making a Difference



Thank you once again to those participating in CWA of Maine's 2017 Encourage-A-Legislator program. If you have not already sent out this month's postcard, please do so today.

Steering Committee Position Opening - Legislative Liaison



CWA of Maine is looking for someone to serve as the Legislative Liaison. Her responsibilities would entail monitoring state legislation that is consistent with CWA's goals and concerns, meeting with legislators at the state Capitol, and writing articles on legislation as needed for action alerts or a statewide newsletter. No prior experience required.

If you are interested in more information about this position contact Penny Morrell at director@maine.cwfa.org or call 207-465-6015.

CWA of Maine Membership Drive

From now until the end of October, all those who contribute \$25 or more to become a member of CWA of Maine will receive CWA's CEO and President Penny Nance's book *Feisty & Feminine* for free.

Encourage your friends and family to become a member of CWA of Maine today!

If you are already a member, it still applies! Contribute \$25 or more, and we will send you the book for free!

Send a check to CWA of Maine, 864 Manchester Road, Belgrade, ME 04917. Make the check out to "Concerned Women for America" or "CWA" and be sure to put "CWA of Maine" on the memo line. Be sure to include a note indication that you are participating in the membership drive. Or, donate online. After you do so be sure to email us at director@maine.cwfa.org that you have done so as part of the membership drive.

"Today's conservative women are intelligent, well-educated, compassionate, accomplished, funny, and fearless," says Nance. *Feisty & Feminine* takes an honest and transparent look at what it means to be a conservative Christian woman, with thoughtful commentary on the real issues confronting you right now.

