

SUMMER 2017



Concerned Women for America of North Dakota



A Note From the State Director Linda Thorson We Made a Difference - Because of You!



Now that the 2017 North Dakota Legislative Session has ended, we wanted to update you on the results of Concerned Women for America (CWA) of North Dakota's work and inform you of our plans for the remainder of the year.

We have plenty to celebrate as OUR VOICES are being heard! We have accomplished much ... but only because of *YOUR* help!

CWA of North Dakota took a stand on

a handful of issues this legislative session from adoption, student led prayer, parental rights concerning test assessments, "special" rights for LGBT individuals, and a Sunday closing law. All of the five bills that we took a stand on resulted in our favor.

We have said it before, and we'll say it again ... we couldn't make this kind of progress without your faithful prayers, action and financial support! We need your prayers and welcome your involvement and donations. Thank you for your past support! It is evident that it DOES

make a difference!

Let me ask you, what is your next step? What might God be calling you to within the ministry of CWA of North Dakota? Give me a call, let's talk about it.

"Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you."
(2 Corinthians 13:11)

2017 State Legislative Session Recap

CWA of North Dakota diligently followed a variety of state bills this legislative session. We put out e-alerts to encourage members to pray and take action. State Director Linda Thorson travelled to Bismarck and testified on a number of bills. A special thanks to Encourage-A-Legislator Coordinator, Karen Anderson, for accompanying Linda

multiple times to Bismarck and supporting her in prayer.

Testimony is important to influence the committee where the bill is first discussed. Usually, the "pass" or "do not pass" is used on the floor to sway the legislators as they deliberate on a bill. Therefore, it's imperative that the committee hear accurate and relevant

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information on the merits of a bill. CWA of North Dakota provided the information on the bills that are important to us.

Thank you for contacting our state legislators with your concerns. Our voices were heard on these important issues!

These are the bills CWA of North Dakota took a stand on during the 2017 state legislative session:

Adoption

HB 1319 would have made all adoption records open regardless of parental wishes.

Position: Opposed

Testimony: Given before the House Judiciary Committee. Click [here](#) to read. Testimony was later used by Rep. Lawrence Klemin (R-District 47) during the debate on the House floor in opposition to the bill.

E-Alert: Click [here](#) to read.

Outcome: HB 1319 received a *do not pass* recommendation in the House Judiciary Committee and failed as it was voted down on the floor of the House! *Thank you, Lord!*



Testifying in opposition to HB 1386.

Religious Freedom

HB 1275 allows student led prayer at athletic events at private schools. This bill stated that if a “school-sanctioned athletic activity” is held at a parochial or private school, neither the “association nor any other entity” may prohibit prayers.

Position: Support

Testimony: Given before the House Judiciary Committee. Click [here](#) to read. Rep. Al Carlson (R-District 41) reiterated on the House floor the point made in the CWA testimony that students have First Amendment Constitutional Rights.

E-Alert: Click [here](#) to read.

Outcome: HB 1275 received a *do pass* recommendation from the House Judiciary Committee and then passed in the House. *Praise the Lord!*

Parental Rights

HB 1389 gives parents the ability to request to opt their children out of test assessments.

Position: Support

Testimony: Given before the House Education

Committee. Click [here](#) to read testimony. CWA of North Dakota urged our State Representatives serving on the committee to enact parental directives for the administration of tests and assessments.

E-Alert: Click [here](#) to read.

Outcome: HB 1389 received a *do not pass* recommendation from the House Education Committee. However, it passed the House and

Senate with amendments and was signed by the Gov. Burgum on April 19. *Praise the Lord!*

“Special” Rights

HB 1386 would have given special rights to LGBT individuals. It would not have protected rights but would have granted special privileges based strictly on someone’s *sexual behavior*.

Position: Oppose

Testimony: Given before the House Human Services Committee. Click [here](#) to read testimony.

E-Alert: Click [here](#) to read the first e-alert and [here](#) to read the second.

Outcome: HB 1386 received a *do not pass* recommendation from the House Human Services Committee, and the House did not pass it. *Praise the Lord!*

Common Day of Rest

HB 1163 would have repealed North Dakota’s Sunday Closing Law. Setting aside a common day of rest honors God and allows the majority of retail employees’ opportunities to worship on Sunday mornings.

Position: Oppose

E-Alert: Click [here](#) to read.

Outcome: HB 1163 failed. *Thank you, Lord!*



Linda Thorson testifying in support to HB 1389.



Town hall meeting concerning healthcare. Congressman Kevin Cramer, Linda Thorson, Karen Anderson and prolife leaders at Cramer’s Town Hall meeting in Fargo .



Former state legislator, Bette Grande, and Linda Thorson at Planned Parenthood Protest Rally in Moorhead, Minnesota .

CWA of North Dakota Was Honored to Play a Part in Confirming Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch

CWA of North Dakota was instrumental in the confirmation of Judge Neil Gorsuch to Justice on the Supreme Court. We relentlessly contacted Sen. Heitkamp's (D-North Dakota) office when it appeared as though she would not support the confirmation. In the end, Heitkamp was swayed and voted to confirm Judge Gorsuch. CWA of North Dakota sent the Senator a *Thank You* for her actions. Additionally, Linda Thorson spoke at a rally in Bismarck to support Gorsuch and

participated in a CWA rally in Washington, D.C.

Because the national office of CWA had worked so diligently for this confirmation, they were awarded tickets to attend the confirmation hearings. Linda Thorson was blessed to be a recipient of one of those tickets and was able to attend a day of the confirmation hearings. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime event!



We Are What We Wear

Beth Brown, Prayer/Action Chapter Coordinator

Who are you? I mean, if someone asked you "Who are you", what would you tell them? If someone asked me, "Who are you?", I would give them my name, where I'm from, who I'm married to, the names of my children and other random facts or places from which the person may remember me. But who am I ... really? My identity comes from God. I'm a daughter of the King; I'm a branch; I'm redeemed; I'm loved; I'm restored; I'm an ambassador ... my identity in Christ has many facets. But in our culture today, people are increasingly identified by the world and even lately by hyper-partisanship. If I'm a Republican and you're a

Democrat, you are despicable. If I'm a Liberal and you're a Conservative, you are deplorable. There is less and less recognition of who the "battle of good and evil" is *really* against. Ephesians 6:12 says, "We aren't fighting against human enemies, but against rulers, authorities, forces of cosmic darkness and *spiritual powers of evil in the heavens.*" (*Emphasis is mine.*) In other words, our battle is a spiritual one with Satan himself. So ... just how do we deal with that?

God gives His believers armor to battle spiritual warfare. But it doesn't do us any good if we don't pick it up and put it on. We need to use it and

Special Thanks to the Encourage-A-Legislator Program Volunteers

During the 2017 Legislative Session, CWA of North Dakota Encourage-A-Legislator (EAL) program kicked off with volunteers covering every one of our 47 State Senators and 94 State Representative legislators with encouraging words and prayers. Throughout the session, which took place January 3 through April 27, these wonderful volunteers prayed for their assigned legislator and sent an encouraging postcards. Karen Anderson, our EAL Coordinator has received many positive comments from legislators about the messages they have received! In fact, one said she cherished the words of encouragement and prayers and has kept every postcard. It is good to urge our legislators, through our e-mails and calls, to vote for pro-family legislation but more importantly, we are first and foremost called to pray for them and show them the love of Jesus, regardless of the decisions they make. Thank you to all those that were part of the EAL program in North Dakota!

Prayer Need: Pray for Karen Anderson and her family. Her husband Vance was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer a few weeks ago and went home to the Lord on June 13.

wear it every day! If Satan can distract us, make us feel useless, discouraged, frustrated and weak, he wins! His ultimate goal is to separate us from God. The rest is just distraction after distraction, whatever it takes to accomplish his goal of keeping us from relationship with Christ.

In Ephesians 6:10-18, you will find a complete outfit of spiritual armor that God has provided for us. First, must come the Belt of Truth. All the other tools will hang from this Belt of Truth you are wearing, so you must be sure it IS the truth. There is one God, who died for you and rose again, defeating death and Satan for eternity. He is the way, the truth and the life. You cannot alter the truth; otherwise, it's no longer the truth. Be sure you believe in the one true God.

Once you have that belt securely (and I mean securely!) fastened on, you'll put on the breastplate of righteousness. That shield goes over your chest for a reason. Hearts are vulnerable organs, and we must protect it. Not only physically, but emotionally. Women, especially, seem to be tossed about by emotion, (I'm raising my hand here!) but our emotions do NOT determine who we are. Remember, Christ is in us, and we need to put on that righteousness, strength and power. That's why He's in there! He wants to protect you. Call on Him!

Next come the shoes of peace. We are to have our spiritual "running shoes" on, ready to go, and dressed for battle by wearing all these armor pieces every day. In other words, be prepared. Read your Bible, know what

the Lord says, practice right living and be secure and stable in God in whom you've put your faith. Remember, He's already won the war, we are just experiencing Satan's attempts to overthrow Him. We are fighting from the vantage point of victory!

Above all, we are to carry the shield of faith. We use this to fend off arrows and accusations from the enemy. Satan will use whatever he can to try to throw you off course and he'll use something he knows is your weakness. He'll target you, so be prepared to depend on your faith in the Lord of All. Of course, we are also to wear a helmet of salvation. This helmet of salvation protects our head because we need to be thinking about our faith. Faith is applying the redemption we've been given and living like we are redeemed. Protect your mind by "taking every thought captive" and guard it by choosing to honor God with your thoughts and actions.

Finally, we have the one offensive piece ... the sword of the Spirit, God's word. This is His weapon given to us to use ourselves. This sword is used for hand to hand combat when things are close to us, intimidating us, or targeting us. Use Scripture personally. Pray it, think it, and post it places where you'll see it throughout the

day. Satan hates nothing more than a woman who's got the Lord on her mind. PRAY! The Bible says to pray all the time for all believers. Keep a journal of your prayers, and you'll be amazed at the answers you see as you go.

Prayer is so vital to what CWA does. We've documented many answers to prayer in these pages. We thank you for praying, but most of all, we thank the one true God for answering those prayers. He's provided answers and responded to our pleas, and we give Him the glory and honor for the positive outcomes we've seen in recent months. Bless you for all you do for the Kingdom!

Join Us!

HUMAN RIGHTS PRAYER RALLY

We're in the planning stages of an event to be held in the Fargo/Moorhead area this fall called "100 No More!" It will expose Planned Parenthood for the inhumane and racist organization that it is and has been for 100 years. Watch for the announcement of our "Special Guest Speaker" and more details about this exciting event *coming soon ...*



CWA of North Dakota is on the Move ▶

and newsletters—it is because of gifts of all sizes that we are enabled to do this work. We are all volunteers, and all contributions go directly towards the work at hand.

CWA of North Dakota is on the move, won't you join us?

[Donate online](#) or send a check to CWA of North Dakota, P.O. Box 213, Park River, ND 58270. Make the check out to "Concerned Women for America" or "CWA" and put "CWA of North Dakota" on the memo line. Reminder: if you contribute through one of CWA National's direct mail letters or e-alerts, those funds will be used for national activities, not for state activities.