

# CWA OF KANSAS QUARTERLY REPORT



OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2017

*Informing, Inspiring and On The Move!*

## *A Note From the State Director Barbara Saldivar*



### ***Is This Your Esther Moment?***

I cannot believe that a month has passed since several of us Kansans were in Washington, D.C., for the CWA Leadership Training Conference! The Lord blessed us richly! I am so thankful for the time we spent with people who serve nationally, fellow state leaders, YWA presidents, and supporters. It was truly such a time of refreshment to be surrounded by all of them and to hear about the work they are doing nationally and locally.

Throughout the conference, we were reminded of the story of Queen Esther. For many years, Queen Esther has stood out to me as an example of obedience because, in her obedience, she saved her people from being killed. When I was in my late teens, I belonged to a group whose purpose was to study the women of the Bible. The book of Esther was one that we thoroughly enjoyed. Another time that Queen Esther stood out to me was at a

conference called “The Esther Call” in Dallas, Texas. For this conference, a group of post-abortive women walked from Austin to Dallas to show that they regretted their abortions and to stand against the legalization of abortions. Those of us attending the conference gathered to meet them in the parking lot of the court where *Roe v. Wade* was decided. It was humbling to see God moving on His people, and especially the women who had come to realize the truth “for such a time as this.”

At the CWA conference, CEO and President Penny Nance shared here thoughts about Queen Esther, “I have come to understand that she is the ‘patron saint’ for all of us at CWA. She, like most of us, was born without financial or social capital, and yet God used her, and He specializes in using people like us. She didn’t seek to be elevated to leadership. She didn’t have a five-year and ten-year plan for her life. Nope! She woke up one day, and God had placed her in a position

of leadership. I can relate to her story and most of you can, too.

“But here’s the thing about leadership — if God gives it to you, then you have to use it for His glory. It’s not enough to just enjoy the position, and that is, apparently, where Esther found herself when her Uncle Mordecai came to see her. Starting in verse 13 of chapter 4, he gives her ‘a talking to’ as my mother used to say, and opens her eyes to the chaos and danger surrounding



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## CWA Leadership Training Conference



Lobby Day at the U.S. Capitol.



Kansas lobbying team in front of Sen. Moran's office. Linda Caswell, Barbara Saldivar, Natalie Missena, and Grayce McAllister.



Penny and Kellyanne Conway, Counselor to U.S. President Donald Trump during the White House Briefing. What a joy to hear from such a Godly woman.



Barbara Saldivar and Beverly LaHaye, CWA's Founder and Chairman of the Board

her and her people, the Jewish people.

"His words in Esther 4 resonate with me: '[W]ho knows, perhaps you were born for such a time as this.' Ladies: now is the time. Who knows, perhaps we were born for such a time as this! We are being given a small window of reprieve from God's judgment. Sixty million babies have died since *Roe v Wade*, religious freedom is threatened for Christian businesses and students, the horrific BDS

movement threatens Israel and bullies Jewish students, and so many other issues need our attention. Do not grow weary in well-doing. Now is the time. We will answer to generations that follow for what we do today."

We are all called into His service, and we can be like Queen Esther and answer that call in a way that He can use us. What has He called you to? Is this your Esther moment?

## Senators Roberts and Moran Need to Hear From You Concerning Lower-Court Nominations

Barbara Saldivar, State Director

Earlier last month at the Concerned Women for America (CWA) Leadership Training Conference in Washington, D.C., I had the opportunity to lobby our senators on Capitol Hill alongside Chapter Coordinator Linda Caswell and Young Women for America President Grayce McAllister and her chapter member, Natalie Missena, concerning the issue of lower-court vacancies.

There are currently over 140 vacancies in the federal district and appellate courts. This is a unique opportunity to secure the judicial branch of government by ensuring the judges appointed to these seats are constitutionalists, not activists legislating from the bench. Thanks to our hardworking grassroots volunteers, Concerned Women for America was instrumental in the confirmation of Justice Neil Gorsuch. CWA can multiply that impact across the federal lower courts. However, gridlock in the Senate is slowing the confirmation process of judicial and executive nominees.

**Solution:** Reasonable gridlock reform should be enacted to allow a simple

majority vote to open debate on legislation while keeping the filibuster rule of a 60-vote requirement to end debate.

We have a golden opportunity to secure the federal judicial system's foundation of constitutional jurisprudence and to fight back against judicial activism. There are over 140 judicial vacancies, 59 of which are considered judicial emergencies.

One problem is that there is gridlock in the Senate, and it is holding up the confirmation process. A total of 206 judicial and executive branch nominees were confirmed during the first six months of Obama's presidency. Meanwhile, President Trump has only secured 55 judicial and executive confirmations in his first six months. At this rate, Senate Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) says it would take 11 years to confirm President Trump's nominees.

The solution to the gridlock is reform. We must maintain the integrity of the Founders' intent for the Senate to be a slower-moving body, but

update certain Senate rules and procedures to limit the gridlock. Currently, the process is to have a 60-vote threshold to begin debate and 60-vote threshold to end debate.

CWA wants to keep the filibuster: The 60-vote threshold to end debate is a key tenet of Senate procedure to protect the voice of the minority party. We want to end the 60-vote requirement to start debate. This would allow the majority party to open discussion on legislation while protecting the minority party with the filibuster still in place.

## **Human Trafficking in Kansas**

**Linda Caswell, Sex Trafficking Issues Specialist and Prayer/Action Chapter Coordinator**

Human trafficking may seem like a distant evil that does not occur in our state. However, it is alive in Topeka, and we suspect it is happening in other Kansas cities as well.

Recently, I spoke to Barry Feaker, Executive Director of the [Topeka Rescue Mission](#) (TRM). I learned that as this ministry continues to serve the homeless, they are meeting more and more trafficked victims. In 2015 Feaker and his co-workers discovered four victims; in 2016 they met 75 victims, and so far this year, they have met 100 victims. TRM is working with law enforcement and hospitals to help those who want freedom from trafficking. There is also hope of developing a place to assess each case. We thank TRM for the great work they have been doing to assist the homeless, and now, trafficking victims.

Sex trafficking has no boundaries and no exceptions. From 2008 – 2015, I founded two houses for human trafficking victims in Oklahoma. The ladies we served ranged from 16 to 55 years of age. They came from all

Kansas Sens. Roberts (R) and Moran (R) both claim to be institutionalists. This means they do not like to change what has been traditionally done. Obviously, their approach has not worked well, because the opposing party has taken full advantage of this.

**Please Pray** for Sens. Roberts and Moran. Pray that they will see beyond tradition and realize what is necessary to allow constitutionalists, not activists, into our lower courts.

**Take Action:** Please contact Sen.

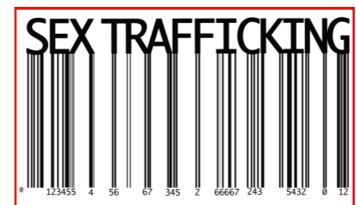
economic backgrounds, countries, and races. Their cry for help was the one thing they all had in common. Most of the ladies had to service 20-30 men per day seven days a week. They were told when to eat, if they could eat, and if they could have water. To keep the women under control, the traffickers starved them and addicted them to drugs. Those who were caught trying to escape were beaten, stabbed, or killed in front of the other women to keep them captive. At times, women were forced to hurt other women.

One of the many tragedies that happen to trafficked women is forced abortion. About 50% of the women and girls I work with talk about being forced to have an abortion at some point when they were trafficked. They were either taken to an abortion clinic, or most often, especially the younger girls, had an abortion performed on them by an unlicensed person in the place they were held hostage. They laid in bed at night and cried from the effects of the abortion. Only Jesus can heal this type of pain.

Roberts [here](#) and Sen. Moran [here](#). First, let them know that as a member of Concerned Women for America, you are grateful that the CWA of Kansas State Director, Barbara Saldivar, and her team met with the senators' staffers on September 8 in Washington, D.C., to discuss the lower-court vacancies. Please reiterate the message that we want gridlock in the Senate to end. Also, ask for consideration in ending the 60-vote requirement to start debate and changing it to a simple majority vote.



*Topeka Rescue Mission*



There are also other types of abortion. One lady told me that her trafficker got mad at her for being pregnant and put her in a bathtub full of ice. He poured four or five pitchers of ice on her, then picked her up and threw her against the wall. She lost her baby.

Pornography plays a major part in sex trafficking. Women and girls are forced to watch pornographic videos

and are required to perform the same acts for the perpetrators.

In the TV mini-series *Human Trafficking*, with Donald Sutherland and Mira Sorvino, it is revealed that in the U.S., the average age of entry into sex trafficking is 13 years old. They live for about four years and end up dying from exhaustion, disease, or violence. Can you hear their cries? The only

one who can heal them is Jesus.

Pray for TRM's ministry.

Pray for me as I continue to research this issue in Kansas, and as I partner with several organizations that are working on this issue. Pray that God will use CWA of Kansas in a mighty way!

## Who is Concerned Women for America?

Concerned Women for America (CWA) is the nation's largest public policy women's organization that is conservative in its philosophy and Christian in its foundations. CWA has a rich history of nearly four decades helping its participants across the country bring Biblical principles into all levels of public policy.

The backbone of CWA is its state organizations. CWA of Kansas is a strong force of prayer, education, and advocacy in the state. Through Prayer/Action Chapters and workshops, we seek to: **empower** women with the tools to counter the message of the extreme feminist agenda, to **equip** women to engage our culture intellectually, authoritatively and respectfully, and to **encourage** women to engage a culture that is desperate for a redemptive message.

CWA of Kansas has an active advocacy presence at our state capitol. Our on-the-ground lobbying efforts combined with grassroots prayer and action definitely yields results!

Are you ready to take the next step?

## Benefits of School Choice

### Grayce McAllister, Young Women for America President at Emporia State University

Are you concerned about the competency level of U.S. students who are now graduating? Have you ever wondered if there will be consequences for not giving students the tools they need to think for themselves? Have you ever wondered if education is the key to freedom? Have you wondered if there are options that would better equip the students who will eventually be governing our country and either preserving freedom or eliminating it? Do these other options have significant advantages? First, let us consider the most popular option- public school. How do U.S. students, from kindergarten through high school, compare to the rest of the world? According to the Pew Research Center, "The most recent PISA results, from 2015, placed the U.S. an unimpressive 38th out of 71 countries in math and 24th in science." The United States is three points above the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) average in science, is 20 points behind the OECD's average in mathematics, and only four points above the OECD average in reading.

Now, let us use homeschooling as an example for a legitimate alternative.

In America, how do you think homeschooled students compare to publicly educated students? In 2014, in a study done by Brian D. Ray, Ph.D. with the National Homeschool Education Research Institution, the results revealed significant differences. According to College Board, "Some 13,549 homeschool seniors had the following mean scores: 567 in critical reading, 521 in mathematics, and 535 in writing. The mean SAT scores for all public-educated college-bound seniors in 2014 were 497 in critical reading, 513 in mathematics, and 487 in writing. The homeschooled students' SAT scores were 0.61 standard deviation higher in reading, 0.26 standard deviation higher in mathematics, and 0.42 standard deviation higher in writing than those of all college-bound seniors taking the SAT, and these are notably large differences." Homeschooling solves the education deficiencies and enhances each student's educational experience. Homeschooling not only allows for parents to choose, personalize, and specialize the education for their specific child, but children educated at home have been found to be above average on issues pertaining to social, emotional, and psychological development. Brian D.

Ray from the National Home Education Research Institute said, "The research base on adults who were home educated is growing; thus far it indicates that they: participate in local community service more frequently than does the general population, vote and attend public meetings more frequently than the general population, go to and

succeed at college at an equal or higher rate than the general population ..."

Currently, there are 2.3 million homeschoolers across the nation, a number which has risen over the past several years. The parents who chose to homeschool are given the opportunity to select their own curriculum and the information that is given to their children. It used to be that homeschooling in the U.S. was an "alternative", but it is increasingly becoming "mainstream." When a family decides to homeschool, they are not dependent upon public tax funds for their education and end up saving the taxpayer \$27 billion annually. On average, the homeschool family pays \$600 per student, while public institutions require \$11,732 per student. According to the evidence, there is a significantly higher quality of education in homeschooling and at a reduced cost.

Over the past few years, there has been a significant increase in the extra-curricular activities in which homeschool students can participate to strengthen their skills outside of the classroom. As a nation-wide organization, National Christian Forensics Communication Association offers homeschoolers the opportunity to compete in speech



and debate with other students across the nation. Additionally, there are local sports opportunities, robotics, 4-H, and community volunteering that give homeschool students well-rounded, educational resources. Brian D. Ray, from the National Home Education Research Institute, said, "Homeschool students are regularly engaged in social and

educational activities outside their homes and with people other than their nuclear-family members."

How do all of these aspects affect liberty and freedom? As James Madison stated, "A well-instructed people alone can be permanently a free people." The students who are taught critical thinking skills, given a personalized education, are active in their community, and know how to work are the ones who will remain informed and free. George Washington once said, "A primary object ... should be the education of our youth in the science of government. In a republic, what species of knowledge can be equally important?" The National Center for Constitutional Studies quoted, "And what duty more pressing ... than communicating it to those who are to be the future guardians of the liberties of the country?"

Test scores

indicate there is a great benefit in school choice, especially the choice of homeschooling because it trains children in the skills of how to think, rather than what to think. This alternative way to educate children has been shown to improve skills of students academically and socially and has helped the community through their involvement and does not burden the taxpayer. As a nation, good education supports and stimulates liberty and freedom, protecting and preserving our nation for generations to come.

**Bibliography:**

Brian D. Ray, Ph. D. *NHERI (National Home Education Research Institute)*. 23 March 2016. <nheri.org/research/research-facts-on-homeschooling.html>. DeSilver, Drew. *Pew Research Center*. 15 February 2017. <pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/02/15/u-s-students-internationally-math-science/>. Ph.D., Brian D. Ray. *National Homeschool Education Research Institution*. 7 June 2016. <nheri.org/research/nheri-news/homeschool-sat-scores-for-2014-higher-than-national-average.html>. Studies, National Center for Constitutional. "The Constitution of the United States with Index, and The Declaration of Independence ." National Center for Constitutional Studies, 2015.

**Young Women for America** is a student-oriented initiative that is geared toward high school and college campuses to bring active groups of like-minded women together to promote conservative values in their schools and the nation.

For more information on this CWA project, go to [concernedwomen.org/special-projects/ywa/](http://concernedwomen.org/special-projects/ywa/).

## ***Social Emotional Learning is on the Rise***

**Barbara Saldivar, State Director**

During an evening news segment in Kansas City, it was announced that the Blue Valley School District (BVSD) is collaborating with Children's Mercy to provide 19 newly hired social workers to meet students' needs. This seems like good news. However, parents should be aware that this could be a part of new comprehensive preschool-12<sup>th</sup> grade standards in Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) which was adopted by the Kansas Board of Education. SEL is a part of their ambitious "Kansas Can" vision to redesign school districts which began with the first seven districts this fall. Kansas, along with Illinois, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, has developed free-standing, comprehensive standards and developmental benchmarks for Social and Emotional Learning (SEL).

SEL standards ask teachers to assess and record data on every student – habits of work rubrics, social and emotional screenings, surveys, self-evaluations, discipline referrals, etc. By some teachers' accounts, academic standards take second place to Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) standards. Teachers did not like the cumbersome requirements under No Child Left Behind. SEL expands requirements, turning teaching into observation and data collection.

I understand that the partnership between BVSD and Children's Mercy will address the "unmet needs" of its students regarding mental health and other social needs. What is considered a "need" that must be addressed by the school or hospital?

Is all of this psychological, behavioral, and physical data protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA)? What happens when school social workers disagree with parents' wishes for their child?

Have you, as the parent, been asked permission to have your child behaviorally analyzed, tested, or surveyed? According to the Student Data Privacy Act passed by the Kansas Legislature in 2014, the parent or guardian of a student must give written permission for the school to administer tests, questionnaires, surveys, or examinations about students' beliefs and practices on issues such as sex, family life, morality, or religion. The problem is that the law does not prohibit school counselors from administering tests as a part of their counseling services to students, therefore, bypassing the parents.

Does prying into the life of the student create problems in need of solutions? Just look at a survey used for over 20 years in Kansas schools. The Kansas Communities That Care Student Survey has been given to students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 to collect data on students' drug and alcohol use. In the hour-long survey, many questions on minor students' personal lives are asked. This survey introduces a 6th grader to all the possible drugs they could use, and they are told there are no right or wrong answers. The solution is random drug testing. Drug use among students is increasing, and some feel this survey is to blame for

introducing and normalizing drug usage.

Please watch over your children's physical safety. The time has come to do your own research concerning the data collected on your children and the questions being asked of them. Social and Emotional Learning, the latest addition to our schools, needs your scrutiny.

### ***BE COUNTED!***



A donation of \$25 or more has TWO benefits: membership in CWA of Kansas and membership in CWA national. All donations sent to CWA of Kansas, remain in Kansas for state projects.

Mail a check to CWA of Kansas at P.O. Box 8331, Topeka, KS 66608. Make check payable to "Concerned Women for America" and on the memo line write "CWA of KS." Or, click [HERE](#) to give online.

Your renewed annual membership/additional donation is greatly appreciated. All donations sent to CWA national in response to their mailings are utilized in Washington, D.C. All state and national contributions are tax-deductible.

***KEEP WATCH! ➔ Information coming soon concerning a 2018 state conference in Topeka!***