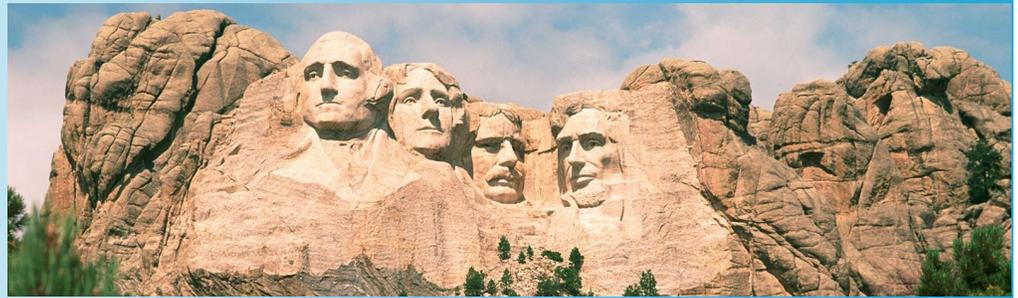




Fall Newsletter 2017



*Protecting the Family Through Prayer and Action*

## Assisted Suicide Measure for 2018 Ballot

Just say “NO” to assisted suicide in South Dakota!

An anti-life petition has been circulating since March in South Dakota, titled, “An Initiated Measure authorizing a South Dakota-Licensed Physician to prescribe drugs that a terminally ill patient may take for the purpose of ending life.” This flies in the face of the ancient, yet sacred, Hippocratic Oath that clearly states, “Do no harm.” If passed, this measure would turn our doctors into agents of death. Click [here](#) to read the entire measure.

Proponents of “aid-in-dying,” “compassionate choices,” “dignity in dying,” and other euphemisms are causing some citizens to gradually forget their Christian ethos of God as life-giver and life-taker. I Samuel 2:6 states, “The Lord brings death and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and raises up.”

The South Dakota measure defines a terminal disease as “incurable, irreversible, and expected to produce death within six months.” How often have doctors misdiagnosed someone’s life expectancy? All of us can think back to one or more loved ones who have outlived a doctor’s prediction. It is not our right, nor the right of a patient, nor the right of any doctor or medical personnel to “decide” when a patient’s life should be ended. Who are human beings to decide when their own lives should end? No, that is only God’s decision.

Beware of the “Death with Dignity South Dakota” ad campaigns that, if successful, will follow the South Dakota petition

drive. These ads will play upon our sympathies, tear at our heartstrings, and move us to tears. However, these ads will actually be perpetuating an evil in which God forbids our participation!

Thankfully, some in Congress are waking up to the issue. On September 27, Congressional Resolution H.C.R. 80 was introduced and referred to House Committee on

Energy and Commerce through a bipartisan effort. Though a resolution does not hold the weight of a law, the Patients Rights Action Fund and the National Alliance Against Legalizing Assisted Suicide are to be thanked for their efforts in bringing this issue to the forefront.

Pro-life organizations across our nation have fought against so-called



“mercy killing” for decades. We will not let up. Earlier this year, CWA’s Communications Coordinator, Annabelle Rutledge, in a piece titled, “[The Radical Normality of the Pro-Life View](#),” reminded us of our obligation to be vigilant in our fight for the right to live.

In this article, she points out, “There are many takeaways

for the United States from the story of Charlie Gard, including the implications of state-run health care and parental rights. But the most prominent and the most vital to our success as a nation is a deep respect and genuine care for the intrinsic value of all human life. The idea that life is to be fought for, fiercely, until the very end should not be radical, it should be expected.”

**CWA Membership State & National:** A donation of \$25 or more has TWO benefits: membership in CWA of South Dakota and membership in CWA national. All donations sent to CWA of South Dakota, P.O. Box 343, Leola, SD 57456 remain in South Dakota for state projects. Mail a check in the envelope provided or give online at [sd.cwfa.org](http://sd.cwfa.org). 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 contributions are tax-deductible.

**Make your check out to “Concerned Women for America” and put “CWA of SD” on the memo line.**

# Three Marijuana Measures for 2018 Ballot

Just Say “NO” to Marijuana Measures in South Dakota!

Were you recently approached to sign petitions to place “recreational marijuana,” “medical use marijuana,” or “decriminalize marijuana” measures on our 2018 ballot? November 6, 2017, is the deadline for petitions.

In 2015, Penny Nance, President and CEO of Concerned Women for America (CWA), interviewed former drug czar Bill Bennett and mentioned that we already have alcohol and tobacco addictions. She asked Bennett, “Do we really want to add another legal addiction to the list?” He responded, “Why would we put this into the bloodstream of American society and give it our blessing?” Click [here](#) to listen to the interview.

Medical marijuana was on our ballot in 2006 and failed by a slim margin of 52% against and 48% in favor. In 2010, IM-13, “to authorize the possession, use, and cultivation of marijuana by and for persons with specified debilitating medical conditions,” failed with a stronger vote of 63% against and 37% in favor. In 2016, petition collectors failed to obtain the required number of signatures on [a ballot initiative](#). They disputed with the Secretary of State, Shantel Krebs, but failed in their Circuit Court Appeal to prove that signatures thrown out were legitimate.

Here is basic information you need to know, as found in State Attorney General Marty Jackley’s ballot issue explanations:

- ◆ “recreational marijuana” - legalizes up to one ounce of cannabis and five marijuana plants, as well as cannabis



products and paraphernalia. This 35-section measure has numerous conflicts with other state laws and denies the State the ability to seize assets of persons manufacturing or distributing it.

- ◆ “medical use marijuana” - the 95-section measure “qualifies” both adults/minors to use marijuana, prohibits law enforcement from penalizing/denying any rights/privileges, and prohibits schools/landlords from penalizing/denying “medical marijuana cardholders.”
- ◆ “decriminalize marijuana” - the 41-page measure legalizes ALL quantities for possession, distribution, and paraphernalia, and establishes April 20 as “Cannabis Day.” The measure removes some protective references in state law to driving/boating while intoxicated.

Remember: Marijuana is still illegal under Federal law, even though some states have “legalized” it. Federal law is the supreme law of the land, according to the “Supremacy Clause” of the U.S. Constitution. According to [ProCon.org](#), as of June 26, there were [29 states and Washington, D.C.](#) that had passed “medical marijuana” laws.

We are well aware that the pendulum is swinging in the direction of approval, but we continue to call on all CWA members and allies to fight these horrific, anti-family measures by taking the issue to prayer, and then taking action! Go [here](#) to read, print, and share these measures and Attorney General Jackley’s informative explanations.

## Remember Hyde?

May another take his place in leadership. -- Acts 1:20

Upon his death in 2007, Congressman Henry Hyde (R-Illinois) left a legacy that made him very significant in the pro-life culture of our nation. According to the Charlotte Lozier Institute, two-million children have been saved from abortion by his wise efforts, with Congress attaching some form of the “Hyde Amendment” to various spending bills since 1976. How horrific is it that the current governor of Illinois, Bruce Rauner, recently snubbed his nose at Hyde’s legacy by signing a bill that expands taxpayer-funded abortion for all nine months of pregnancy in his state.

*Roe v. Wade* was decided in 1973, legalizing abortion for all nine months of pregnancy. *Roe* allowed for the use of Medicaid funds to be spent on 300,000 abortions annually. Rep. Hyde wanted to end Medicaid-supported abortions. The “Hyde Amendment,” which was first passed by a 207-167 vote of the U.S. House on September 30, 1976, banned federal funding for most



abortions.

From 1981 to 1993, Hyde prohibited the use of federal funds for abortions except in cases when the mother’s life was endangered. During the Clinton administration, exceptions were expanded to include rape and incest. In 2016 the Democratic Party called for the repeal of the Hyde Amendment in its platform. The most recent Hyde-related action took place on January 24, 2017, when the House of Representatives passed, by a vote of 238-183, [H.R. 7](#), which is the *No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act*. According to Speaker Paul Ryan’s press office, this “makes the Hyde amendment permanent.”

Hyde protects conscience rights for the pro-life American taxpayers who do not believe abortion funding is a just purpose of government. And Hyde is consistent with the public opinion of [62 % of Americans](#), including pro-choice taxpayers,

who believe abortion should not be federally funded. In 1980, the Supreme Court even ruled that Hyde could remain in effect since Congress should have no trouble distinguishing between abortion and other procedures because no other procedure involved the purposeful termination of life.

Regarding this 5-4 Supreme Court decision, [Harris v. McRae](#), Congressman Hyde responded, “What today’s decision really means is life for countless unborn children, just as surely as unrestricted abortion means death for them. So the true victors don’t even know about the battle, much less the victory.”

According to a study by George Washington University,

Medicaid pays for about 45% of U.S. childbirths, and it fully funds abortions in 17 states. While South Dakota is not on that list, abortions are paid for when it is necessary to protect the life of the woman.

If Hyde had not been in effect during these past 40 years, researcher Michael New estimates that up to one in nine children born under Medicaid would have died at an abortionist’s hand.

**Let us pray** that God will continue to raise up new pro-life legislators and leaders who follow in the footsteps of Henry Hyde. Let us pray for an overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and that the love of life would reign victorious from shore to shore.

## Encourage-A-Legislator Campaign

Join us in prayer and encouragement for our state legislators during the 2018 Legislative Session beginning in January. Commit to regularly praying for an assigned legislator and sending him/her encouraging postcards provided. Contact Linda at [director@southdakota.cwfa.org](mailto:director@southdakota.cwfa.org) or 605-380-6914.



## Hope Reigns in the Supreme Court for Our Liberties

But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! -- Amos 5:24

The next step in the marginalization of Christian beliefs has reached the Supreme Court of the U.S. (SCOTUS). The *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* case involves a Christian baker who is being forced to use his artistic talents to “celebrate” same-sex “marriage.” The announcement that the SCOTUS has agreed to hear this case early in December gives believers hope that our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and freedom of religion will be upheld and that the bullying and persecution of Christians will cease.

Jack Phillips, the owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop, operates his business according to his Christian convictions, such as closing on Sunday. Furthermore, he does not create cakes that celebrate events or ideas contrary to his convictions, which includes no cakes for Halloween, anti-American ideas, atheism, racism, or indecency. Since Mr. Phillips believes that God created marriage to be between one man and one woman, he refuses to bake and design a cake celebrating anything else.

Two men, Mr. Craig and Mr. Mullins, wanted Jack to design a custom cake for their same-sex wedding. When Jack politely declined service, the couple filed a “sexual orientation” discrimination charge with the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. The commission found that Jack violated the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act (CADA). The CADA ordered Jack to create the custom cakes that “celebrate” same-sex weddings if he is going to create cakes for traditional marriages. Additionally, he’s required to train his staff to

adhere to this policy, and he must report to CADA every order he turns down for the next two years.

We are witnessing this Gestapo-like persecution of Christians all over the country. Photographers, florists, family farms, bed and breakfasts, and bakers are victims of this political correctness. Ironically, before *Obergefell*, the case that legalized same-sex “marriage,” proponents claimed that their “marriage” wouldn’t affect anyone else.

Following the encounter with Jack in his bakery, Mr. Craig and Mr. Mullins unsuccessfully used social media in an attempt to bully and shut down his business. However, Jack's business increased and drew in new customers to demonstrate support for his courageous stance. Reportedly, Jack said, “We would close down our bakery before we would compromise our beliefs.” He further stated that he is willing to do business

with anyone, “If gays come in and want to order birthday cakes or cakes for any occasion, graduations, or whatever, I have no prejudice against that whatsoever. It's just the wedding cake--not the people, not their lifestyle.”

We are pleased that the SCOTUS has agreed to hear this case and settle this issue regarding our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and religious liberty. Mario Diaz, Esq., CWA's Legal Counsel, submitted an [amicus \(friend of the court\) brief](#) in support of Jack Phillips. An excerpt reads, “The Court should make sure that efforts to protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation do not trample on the rights specifically spelled out in the First Amendment. ... The animus against Christians who hold a



traditionally Biblical view of marriage continues to grow under the current political and cultural pressures we have discussed. ... [T]he Court should stand against all forms of discrimination by upholding Petitioners' constitutional rights to freedom of speech and the free exercise of religion.”

According to a September 18 press release, State Attorney General Marty Jackley joined a 20-state coalition of attorneys general in filing an [amicus brief](#) in support of Jack Phillips in this Masterpiece Cakeshop case. “This case is about the freedom of religion that should be protected by government rather than threatened by it,” said Jackley. “There is no need for the heavy hand of government to force a private business owner to bake a cake.”

**PRAYER CONCERN:** We at CWA know that the battle is more than a legal one; it is a spiritual one. Ephesians 6:12 says, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age.” We urge you to pray for the justices by name, as well as the attorneys who will give the oral arguments.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr.

Clarence Thomas	Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Stephen G. Breyer	Samuel Anthony Alito Jr.
Sonia Sotomayor	Elena Kagan
Anthony Kennedy	Neil Gorsuch

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”

- Ronald Reagan, 40th President of United States



In September, CWA's CEO and President Penny Nance was invited to dinner at the White House and had the honor of saying grace. A variety of topics were discussed and Penny brought up the issues of the sanctity of life and the support of Israel. When sharing about this meeting with CWA staff, Penny stated, “When I go to these meetings, know that it is not me sitting beside the president of the United States, I am simply a placeholder for CWA leaders around the country and you as staff. I am only there to represent you and I am honored to have that job.”



**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/](https://concernedwomen.org/special-projects/ywa/).

## Concerned Women for America's Seven Core Issues

**Sanctity of Life:** CWA supports the protection of all innocent human life from conception until natural death. We also support alternatives to abortion, and healing for mothers suffering from the results of abortion.

**Defense of Family:** CWA believes that marriage consists of one man and one woman. We seek to protect and support the Biblical design of marriage and the gift of children.

**Education:** CWA supports reform of public education by returning authority to parents and promoting accessibility to alternative forms of education.

**Religious Liberty:** CWA supports the God-given rights of individuals in the United States and other nations to pray, worship, and express their beliefs without fear of discrimination or persecution.

**National Sovereignty:** CWA believes that neither the United Nations nor any other international organization should have authority over the United States in any area. We also believe the United States has the right and duty to protect and secure our national borders. We believe in budget restraint, which embodies responsible spending, small government, and a budget in which the U.S. government spends within its means and ceases to steal from future generations.

**Sexual Exploitation:** CWA strives to fight all pornography, obscenity, prostitution, and sex slavery.

**Support for Israel:** CWA believes that the people and nations who stand with Israel and the Jewish people will be blessed by God. We believe that any foreign policy effort to withdraw U.S. support for Israel is in direct contradiction to America's national interests.