

**Special Session Agenda:
Concerned Women for America of Texas
and
The Lone Star Agenda**

We place the constitutional rights of Texans to liberty and self-determination for themselves and their families above the desires of government officials and special interests.

1. Allow families to make mental and physical health decisions for themselves.

- a. Amend recently passed mental health legislation to provide protections for parental and civil rights via informed parental consent and full Miranda warnings, which are needed to protect due process rights and prevent violations of the Fifth Amendment right against compelled self-incrimination.

CWA of Texas took a strong stand against SB 11, sponsored by Sen. Larry Nichols (Republican-District 3), which included SB 10, sponsored by Sen. Jane Nelson (Republican-District 12). CWA of Texas Directors signed a letter asking Gov. Abbott to veto the bill. He refused, and it became law. Two other bills, HB 18 and HB 19 by sponsored Rep. Four Price (Republican-District 87), also became law. You can read about the bills [here](#).

- b. Provide stricter enforcement for public schools requiring the teaching of abstinence as the core component of sex education.

CWA of Texas supported HB 3135 sponsored by Rep. Briscoe Cain (Republican-District 128), which would have prevented obscene or other harmful material from being presented to our children. When it was apparent that HB 3135 would stall in committee, CWA of Texas attempted to attach it to bill HB 3730 sponsored by Rep. Valoree Swanson (Republican-District 150). HB 3730 failed in the Calendar Committee. You can read about the bills [here](#).

CWA of Texas supported SB 784 by Sen. Bryan Hughes (Republican-District 1) that would have closed loopholes and increased transparency and respect for parental rights/authority as related to public School Health Advisory Councils. It was left pending in the committee.

2. Stop wrongful removal of children from families by restoring due process rights for parents.

- a. Prevent Child Protect Services workers from exceeding their legal authority in investigations.
- b. Protect the due process rights of investigated families.

CWA of Texas has joined two *amicus* briefs where parental rights are flagrantly being violated. Read the briefs [here](#) and [here](#).

3. Stop local ordinances that interfere in private employer-employee relationships.

Pass legislation prohibiting local governments from violating the rights and freedoms of individuals, organizations, and businesses to exercise their sincerely held religious beliefs or conduct their internal affairs.

CWA supported the comprehensive HB 1035 sponsored by Rep. Bill Zedler (Republican-District 96), the “Free to Believe Act,” that would have protected government employees and businesses from being required to violate their religious beliefs in the practice of their business. It was left pending in the committee.

4. Increase protections for unborn Texans.

Pass legislation restricting, ending, and abolishing abortion in Texas.

CWA of Texas supported the HB 1500, the Heartbeat Bill, authored by Rep. Briscoe Cain (Republican-District 128), and co-authored by 61 state representatives, which would have prohibited abortions after the detection of a fetal heartbeat. The bill was never granted a hearing.

CWA supported HB 896 sponsored by Rep. Tony Tinderholt (Republican-District 94), which prohibited abortion at any stage. No committee vote was taken.

CWA of Texas supported HB 2434 sponsored Rep. Matt Schaefer (Republican-District 6) and SB 11033 sponsored by Sen. Kelly Hancock (Republican, District 9), which would have prohibited discriminatory abortions based on prognoses of birth defect. It was left pending in the committee.

We must improve the security of Texans to be safe in their communities and free from injustice.

1. Secure the southern border (interior enforcement to end the “magnet” effect).

- a. Prevent the hiring of illegal aliens and anyone not legally authorized to work in the U.S., to protect jobs for American workers.
- b. Close loopholes in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), indigent health care (non-emergency/non-life-threatening care), and other social welfare programs that allow appropriated funds to go to non-citizens.

While CWA of Texas did not take a position on state legislation on this issue, CWA has as one of our core issues, national sovereignty. Under this core issue, one of our goals is for our nation to develop and maintain strong border controls to protect us from foreign terrorists and the flow of illegal immigration.

2. Stop human trafficking.

Pass legislation granting the Texas Attorney General full concurrent jurisdiction over multi-jurisdictional cases.

CWA of Texas has supported, through many previous sessions and again this year, legislation to stop human trafficking. Several human tracking bills were passed this session; however, this necessary step was ignored.

3. Protect the rights of Texans to bear arms.

Pass constitutional carry while maintaining optional licensure for reciprocity purposes.

CWA of Texas did not take a position on state legislation on this issue

We must reform and protect the Texas institutions that are critical to our historical identity as the Lone Star State.

1. Protect Texas monuments.

Pass legislation protecting historical monuments from future removal or defacement and monuments that have been removed be restored to their historical locations.

SB 927, sponsored by Sen. Bob Hall (Republican-District 2), would have prevented the rebranding of the significance of the Alamo in Texas history. CWA of Texas has decried the trend in education that removes the founding history of the United States as it pertains to religious liberty – including denying the history of our state and nation's monuments represent.

2. Improve election integrity with paper ballot backup audit trails and citizenship

- a. Pass increased penalties for those who violate the law regarding ballot by mail and vote harvesting.
- b. Require voter citizenship to be verified before an individual is added to the rolls.
- c. Remove the ability of the Secretary of State to offer waivers to counties and allow them to violate the law.
- d. Enforce laws requiring paper ballot backups.
- e. Pass legislation requiring paper ballot backup audit trail for electronic voting machines.

CWA of Texas supported SB 9, an omnibus election law bill by Sen. Bryan Hughes (Republican-District 1) that would have addressed the many frailties of our Texas election code. The bill failed to pass. Therefore, threats to the integrity of our local, state, and national elections could increase. In recent days I have encouraged people to go to election poll training, and from their reports, we are hearing about concerns about huge loopholes and violations and our protective election procedures being shrugged off.

3. End taxpayer-funded lobbying.

Pass legislation banning political jurisdictions from hiring lobbyists.

SB 29, sponsored by Sen. Bob Hall (Republican-District2), would have prohibited the use of tax-payer funds by municipalities to hire lobbyists. Forty-three state representatives joined four state senators to kill the bill. Here is an example of why the bill was important to pass: SB 6, the Privacy Act, sponsored by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (Republican-District 18), filed in the 2017 legislative session failed in part because school districts sent lobbyists to oppose our efforts to keep students separated by biological sex in restroom, lockers rooms, and showers.

4. End union dues withholding from public-sector paychecks.

Pass legislation ending government collection of labor union dues.