



CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* **AMERICA**
OF SOUTH DAKOTA

SPRING 2020 ISSUE

CWA of South Dakota in Action! Legislative Session 2020

"The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws." --Noah Webster

Pro-family and pro-life issues were the focus of our efforts as we represented you at our state capitol. Our 2020 South Dakota legislative session started on January 14, and ended on Veto Day, March 30. All bills, actions, legislators and their votes can be accessed at sdlegislature.gov. If you have questions, you may call Linda at (605) 380-6914 or email at director@southdakota.cwfa.org.

Sanctity of Life

Rep. Jess Olson (R-District 34) and Sen. Jessica Castleberry (R-District 35) sponsored [HB1232](#), a good bill to provide financial assistance to families in the adoption process. Adoption incurs costs for service fees, adoption education, home study reports, etc. The bill originally requested a \$500,000 appropriation, but it was amended to one dollar in an effort to get a fund established. HB1232 was defeated in the Joint Appropriations Committee.

CWA supported [HB1195](#), a bill "to provide for the dismissal of charges against pregnant women for certain controlled substance offenses under certain circumstances," sponsored by Rep. Spencer Gosch (R-District 23) and Sen. Brock Greenfield (R-District 2). Pregnant mothers who are addicted to a controlled substance give birth to a baby who suffers from addiction as well, not to mention the monetary costs the state incurs in caring for the baby. HB1195 offers the mother exoneration of drug-related charges if she receives prenatal care, is actively enrolled in an addiction recovery program prior to giving birth and following or has completed one. HB1195 is a good bill to encourage the pregnant mother to seek help for herself and to give birth to a healthy baby. HB1195 passed and was signed by the governor.

HCR6020 was a good resolution "Denouncing the National Education Association's recent policy to support 'the fundamental right to abortion.'" HCR6020 was sponsored by Rep. Jon Hansen (R-District 25) and Sen. Kris Langer (R-District 25), and we are pleased it passed in both chambers.

Education

An anti-school choice bill (HB1204) that attacked the successful Partners in Education program was brought

forward by Rep. Mark Willadsen (R-District 11) and Sen. Deb Soholt (R-District 14). [Partners in Education](#) provides tax credits to insurance companies who donate to nonprofit scholarship granting organizations which then provide private school scholarships to students who meet the income and grade requirements. In 2018-2019, Partners in Education provided scholarships to 720 South Dakota students in 45 private schools with an average scholarship of \$419. HB1204 would have gutted the funding limit to this program by 75%. We are pleased that HB1204 failed in committee.

An effort to establish an Early Learning Council through HB1237 was sponsored by Rep. Erin Healy (D-District 14) and Sen. Jeff Partridge (R-District 34). We at CWA of South Dakota have been opposing this type of council because we believe in choice in childcare and preschool. We believe that taxpayers should not be required to foot the bill for universal pre-K when it would duplicate services and programs already in place in South Dakota. State taxpayer costs for pre-K are estimated at \$4000 to \$5000 per child. Parents of young children should not have "free childcare" and "free preschool" dangled before them, enticing both parents to join the workforce, rather than continue to raise their own children. HB1237 was sent to the 41st legislative day, essentially killing the bill.

We supported HB1167, "An Act to revise provisions regarding confidential communications between a student and certain school employees." HB1167 was sponsored by Rep. Chris Johnson (R-District 32) and Sen. Rocky Blare (R-District 21). Transparency should always be the goal between a school counselor, the student, and his/her parents. Currently, counselors are not required to contact parents regarding any conversation they have with their child, even if it is something that could be life changing. We supported this bill because we are concerned about the deterioration of parental rights and authority. The bill rightfully makes an exception if there is criminal abuse in the home. HB1167 failed in the House 30-37.

Support for Israel

HCR6005, sponsored by Rep. Lee Qualm (R-District 21) and

It's Our Job to Protect the Rights of the Unborn

"Science and ultrasounds and common sense all make it very clear that when we talk about unborn children, we're talking about human beings, with their own fingerprints and their own DNA."

-- Sen. John Thune (R-South Dakota) February 26, 2020

Sen. Jim Bolin (R-District 16), is a resolution "commending the nation of Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States and with the State of South Dakota." Learn about CWA's core issue, [Support for Israel](#), including President Trump's recent comprehensive plan, "Peace to Prosperity," to secure Israeli and Palestinian peace. HCR6005 passed [58-8](#) in the House and [31-3](#) in the Senate.

National Sovereignty

A good resolution supporting the Electoral College, HCR6003, was sponsored by Rep. Tina Mulally (R-District 35) and Sen. Brock Greenfield (R-District 2). This good resolution passed 61-5 in the House and 31-3 in the Senate. You may read more about the Electoral College below.

We opposed [HJR5001](#), sponsored by Rep. Manny Steele (R-District 12) and Sen. Blake Curd (R-District 12) because it would threaten our U.S. Constitution. According to Article V of the U.S. Constitution, states may *apply* for a Constitutional Convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution. When 34 states have *applied*, Congress will *call* for a Convention. We oppose a constitutional convention because there is too much uncertainty regarding such an event. Who would select delegates and how many will each state be allowed? What amendments will be considered? Abolish the Electoral College? Eliminate the Second Amendment? Revise the First Amendment? Propose the Equal Rights Amendment? Draft a new constitution with a more lenient ratification process? Proponents of a constitutional convention seek "fiscal restraint and limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government." Granted, these are worthy goals, but all these limitations are already enumerated in the Constitution. Our government simply needs to obey them rather than opening up the U.S. Constitution to mischief. [The Constitution is not the problem](#). We are pleased that HJR5001 failed in the House [32-37](#).

HB1261, sponsored by Rep. David Johnson (R-District 33) and Sen. Jeff Partridge (R-District 34), was a good bill to provide procedures to enforce the integrity of the U.S.

Constitution. This U.S. Constitution Enforcement and Integrity Act would create a process for the people of South Dakota to stand against, either through no enforcement or through nullification, those federal mandates that we the people believe are unconstitutional. HB1261 failed in committee [4-7](#).

CWA of South Dakota supported [SJR503](#), which would rescind a 2015 Convention of States (constitutional convention) application "for a constitutional convention for the sole purpose of changing the Constitution of the United States." We want to make South Dakota free of all Convention of States applications. SJR503 failed in the Senate for [lack of majority vote](#). We wanted a Yes vote. SJR503 was sponsored by Sen. Brock Greenfield (R-District 2) and Rep. David Johnson (R-District 33).

"Gender Identity"

By far, the bill that brought the greatest consternation was HB1057, the Vulnerable Child Protection Act, sponsored by Rep. Fred Deutsch (R-District 4) and Sen. Brock Greenfield (R-District 2). HB1057 would have banned medical doctors and some other medical professionals from prescribing puberty blockers, opposite-sex hormones, or sex-reassignment surgery on children under the age of sixteen. After several amendments, the penalty was reduced from a criminal offense to a civil offense. This would provide the "victim" the right to press charges years later against those who prescribed the "sex-change" treatments if the victim experienced negative outcomes from the treatment. HB1057 passed 46-23 in the House but failed in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee 2-5. You may read more about this issue and why it is so harmful on page 4.



Electoral College vs. National Popular Vote

"But select capable men from all the people – men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain – and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens." --Exodus 18:21

It seems that following every Presidential election, the debate surfaces concerning the Electoral College versus the National Popular Vote (NPV). However, in recent years the voices are getting louder and more adamant.

Our form of government is a constitutional republic. The word "democracy" is not found in the Constitution or the Pledge of Allegiance. We elect people to make decisions in government for us. The Founders were careful to guard against a direct democracy, or the majority rule because it doesn't protect the minority. The Electoral College is a safeguard against a tyranny of the majority. It is a safeguard against too much power going to certain states or groups. A democracy is like two wolves and a sheep deciding what to have for dinner.

With these ideals in mind, the Founders brilliantly created the Electoral College where the voters choose presidential electors who vote for the President and Vice-President on our behalf.

There are 538 electors that comprise the Electoral College based on Congressional representation — four hundred thirty-five representatives, 100 senators, and three representatives from the District of Columbia. South Dakota has two senators and one representative, giving us three electors, or three electoral votes. The political parties choose their electors in each state. On Election Day in November, we do not vote for President and Vice-President; we vote for the electors. Whichever candidate (or electors) wins the most votes within the state wins our three electoral votes. Nationally, whoever wins 270 electoral votes wins the Presidency.



The Electoral College compels candidates and political parties to focus on all regions and coalitions rather than on heavily populated states and certain groups of individuals. A National Popular Vote, on the other hand, would ensure that California and New York would elect the President, making South Dakota and other small states irrelevant.

The unofficial popular vote nationwide does not always win the Presidency. You will recall that in 2016, Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by garnering votes from large states like New York and California. However, Donald Trump won the Electoral College vote. The Electoral College system places a cap on the number of electoral votes the large states may have, thus protecting the "sheep" as in our scenario above.

Under a NPV system, a close election would require a nationwide federal commission to conduct a recount, opening the door to fraud. However, the safer, state-run election is monitored and held accountable by our own county auditors and secretary of state. The Electoral College ensures that presidential elections are not federally controlled.

Our Constitution is a brilliant document and needs to be obeyed, preserving our republican form of government, our states' rights, and our liberties.

South Dakota's Attorney General Defends the Rule of Law

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

CWA of South Dakota applauds Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg for his commitment to the rule of law in securing South Dakota's 1979 rescission to the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). South Dakota joined Alabama and Louisiana's lawsuit that would prevent the ERA from illegally being added to the U.S. Constitution.

According to Ravnsborg's [press release](#), the lawsuit is against the Archivist of the United States – the federal officer who oversees the ratification process for constitutional amendments ... In 1972, Congress proposed the ERA to the U.S. Constitution with a seven-year deadline for the required three-fourths (38) states to ratify. By the 1979 deadline, 35 states had ratified, but five of those states rescinded their ratifications. South Dakota ratified the ERA in 1973, but in 1979 the legislature rescinded it. David Ferriero, the Archivist of the United States, is "acting illegally" by holding open the ratification process beyond the Congressionally set deadline and is refusing to acknowledge the rescissions of some states.

In recent years, several states are ignoring that 40-year-old

deadline and are proceeding to pass the ERA in their states and claiming they have met the 38-state threshold.

Interestingly, feminist Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg disagrees and believes that Congress and states would have to start over to add the ERA to the Constitution.

Ravnsborg stated, "It is the duty of the Attorney General to defend and support our Legislature. It would be a disservice to the citizens of South Dakota to ignore this obligation of my office."



The ERA is not about equal rights and would actually hurt women. It promotes a sexless agenda through the suppression of natural differences between men and women. The privacy and safety protections for women and girls would be jeopardized. It would destroy fair competition in women's sports and cement taxpayer funded abortion in the Constitution.

Women are thriving and succeeding as in no other time in history. They have done this without the assistance of an ERA.

You Can Attend or Start a Prayer/Action Chapter in Your Area!

"... since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech." --2 Corinthians 3:12

It is incumbent on believers and citizens of the greatest nation on earth to lift up our nation, state, communities, churches, and families in prayer to our Almighty and loving Heavenly Father. We currently have CWA Prayer/Action Chapters in Aberdeen, Sioux Falls, Chamberlain, and Flandreau. Would you consider applying for a Prayer/Action Chapter Leader position with CWA of South Dakota?

Prayer/Action Chapters typically meet once a month for 1-2 hours at a convenient time and location, comprised of concerned citizens with a heart to pray, learn, and take action on CWA's seven core issues. Or you may incorporate a Prayer/Action Chapter into your local Bible study or prayer group. The national office of CWA provides a monthly newsletter to assist you in your meetings.

Or become a Home Team Captain by forming an online team that receives the CWA Newsletter and then prays and takes action individually. Interested? Contact Linda at director@southdakota.cwfa.org or (605) 380-6914.



Protecting Vulnerable Children from Medical Harm

"It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin." --Luke 17:2

Gender dysphoric children are being referred for radical treatment involving unverified medical interventions. Minors making self-determinations of their sex have no understanding of their sexual function and cannot understand or consent to the lifelong impact of such radical, irreversible intervention.

No long-term scientific research exists to support the safety or efficacy of sex reassignment treatments on children — in fact, there is evidence to the contrary. Puberty blockers aggressively arrest bone growth, decrease bone density, prevent normal development of the brain. High doses of opposite-sex hormones can be carcinogenic, increasing breast cancer for males and ovarian cancer in females. They cause irreversible changes to physical appearance, as well as impact their physiological and potentially mental well-being.

Parents are being misinformed by an activist medical community. Rather than educating parents about gender dysphoria, parents are presented with a binary choice:

transition your child or face a high risk of suicide. Any child experiencing suicide ideation needs compassionate and effective psychological treatment. **Studies prove the fluid nature of gender dysphoria: 80% no longer wish to change their sex after puberty. Some studies find the rate as high as 90%.**



A 30-year study in Sweden showed a significant increase in number of suicides, heart disease, suicide attempts, and psychiatric hospitalizations in people a decade after they have undergone sex-reassignment surgery compared to a control group of people of the same age and sex.

The medical community and parents must recognize the danger of medical treatments to youth struggling with identity and must assist in ethical solutions that do not reject long-term health and well-being.

(This article was condensed for space purposes. Please click [here](#) to read it in its entirety and to view footnotes.)

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 given to CWA of South Dakota remain in South Dakota for state projects. Write your check out to "Concerned Women for America," put "CWA of SD" on the memo line, and send in the envelope provided. Or, 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 contributions are tax-deductible.