



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

FALL 2021 ISSUE

Critical Race Theory

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female,
for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” --Galatians 3:28

One quality that makes America exceptional has been our belief in treating all persons as individuals according to their character. No matter one’s background, happiness and opportunity to succeed are available to those willing to work. America’s guiding principle has come under attack from proponents of Critical Race Theory (CRT).

CRT is an academic discipline that originated in the 1990s but is rooted in Marxism. The [Marxist philosophy](#) divides people by economic class, pitting them against each other. Marxist Leftists sought a revolution where workers realized the disparity between capitalists and the working class and aimed to replace capitalism with socialism. History tells of the failure of such regimes marked with brutalities and human suffering. As a result, Leftists changed their focus on economics and replaced it with racial and social tactics. The civil rights movement of the 1960s, which promoted freedom and opportunity for all, fortunately put a damper on the promotion of Marxist ideology once again. However, the Left has not given up, and again race and oppression has become America’s “original sin,” inciting social unrest with the goal of an economic uprising.

CRT divides people by skin color, labeling some as oppressors and others as oppressed. [CRT teaches](#) that white people are inherently racist and “privileged” and must abolish “white supremacy” principles of private property, equal protection, free speech and capitalism. Black people are encouraged to reject “whiteness” ideals such as the nuclear family, individual rights, equality under the law, freedom of speech, work ethic and respect for authority. White people are urged to prove their “antiracism” by tearing down those American ideals.

Critical Race Theory is the antithesis of the civil rights movement. CRT supporters actually stand against some of Martin Luther King Jr.’s founding ideas. “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” CRT makes one’s degree of melanin the central factor of a person’s life and what they can accomplish.

Consigned to university academia for years, CRT has metastasized into government, every level of our education system, workplace, sports, military and culture. Some schools may insist they do not teach CRT because there is no specific

course/textbook by that name, but many incorporate aspects of CRT into their curricula that are pernicious, such as “white privilege,” “systemic racism,” “equity,” and “antiracism.” Other euphemisms to describe CRT are “equity,” “social justice,” “diversity and inclusion,” and “culturally responsive teaching.” Insidious word-smithing aims to confuse “equity” and the much different “equality.” *Equality* represents the principles of the Declaration of Independence. On the other hand, *equity*, according to CRT theorists, is the redistribution of wealth, private property and other individual rights. (*Imprimis*, March 2021)

We in South Dakota would be naive to think CRT is not in our schools. The nation's largest teachers' union, the [National Education Association](#) openly promotes CRT.

Yes, implementation is progressing in our South Dakota schools. According to journalist [Stanley Kurtz](#), “the current draft of South Dakota Social Studies standards are filled with exercises in leftist action civics ...” and “leftist protest civics.” Gov. Noem recently halted the revision of social study standards after a plethora of citizen comments to the committee revealed the standards did not measure up to the Governor's expectations. According to Kurtz, the American Institutes for Research, a political leftist organization, was hired to facilitate the revision process.

Gov. Noem signed a [candidate pledge](#) to “1776 Action” which promises to support honest and informed patriotic education and also bars “action civics” (mandatory political protests for course credit and CRT). We expect the Governor's delay will allow time to root out the CRT proponents and bring about standards that will make our young people proud to be American citizens.

What can we do? Study up on Critical Race Theory. Watch for it in your own sphere of influence and call it out. Monitor your student’s curricula. Keep in mind CRT can be embedded in every subject. Attend your local school board meetings and challenge their curricula. Support elected officials who oppose CRT at the local, state and federal level. Run for office yourself. Take advantage of homeschooling.

Listen to CWA’s [Webinar: Lobbying the Education Bureaucracy](#). The webinar includes helpful tips and strategies on how to effectively impact school curriculum and policies.

South Dakota Pro-Life Law Headed to the Eighth Circuit Court

“Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.”
--Thomas Jefferson

A pro-life law that passed the South Dakota legislature in 2011 is being appealed to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals by the State of South Dakota in *Planned Parenthood v. Noem*.

HB1217 sought reasonable informed consent provisions that would assure that the woman seeking an abortion is not being coerced. Sixty-four percent of abortions are not voluntary, but rather coerced by the father or parent. The law further required that the abortionist personally meet with the woman to assess her medical and personal circumstances to determine risk factors or rule out potential complications. It also required a three-day waiting period. Thankfully, all these stipulations were upheld by the court, defying the challenge by Planned Parenthood.

However, U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier ruled against the provision requiring the woman visit a South Dakota Department of Health registered pregnancy help center for education, counseling and assistance information during the three-day waiting period.

“All life is precious. Mothers should have the opportunity to hear all relevant information before they are faced with the ‘choice’ of whether to end their unborn child’s life,” said **Gov. Kristi Noem**. “I look forward to the day when all life – born and unborn – is protected by law. Given that the US Supreme Court will soon decide on the constitutionality of prohibiting abortion before ‘viability,’ we are asking the 8th Circuit to recognize that the people’s legislators should have the ability to pass pro-life laws.”



Pro-Life Case at the Supreme Court *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*

“For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother’s womb.” --Psalm 139:13

At CWA, we stand on Biblical ground in the fight for life. The choice to give and take life does not belong to us. God is intimately involved in His creation from the very beginning ... and the future of every child is in His hands.

Dobbs v. Jackson is a case challenging a Mississippi state law that places strict limits on abortions after 15 weeks. The case is *not* a direct challenge to *Roe v. Wade* (the 1973 law legalizing abortion in all 50 states), but the case *is* about whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortions are unconstitutional.

Known as the “Gestational Age Act,” the Mississippi law seeks to protect women and their unborn children by limiting abortions after 15 weeks to only cases of medical emergency and/or severe fetal abnormalities.

Although in the 1992 case *Planned Parenthood of Pennsylvania v. Casey*, the Court continued to recognize that “the state has legitimate interests from the outset of the pregnancy in protecting the health of the woman and the life of the fetus,” CWA believes that the Court’s jurisprudence has been a complete failure in balancing those two interests. Legal trickery does not protect babies or their mothers.

Scientific progress, including ever-sharper ultrasound pictures, has given us a window into the womb, thus destroying the foundations of *Roe* and *Casey*. According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, a 15-week-old baby has:

- Eyes and eyelids with a well-formed face,
- Developed limbs,
- Hands and feet with little toes/toenails and fingers/fingernails,
- Genitals,
- A liver making blood cells of its own,
- Muscle tissue and bones growing firmer to make movement possible.

We now know that babies feel pain at a very early stage and should be given anesthesia when invasive medical procedures are performed on them when they are inside the womb. Many life-saving surgeries and corrective procedures have been successfully performed on unborn babies since Michael Clancy’s very famous photo of little Samuel Armas reaching his hand up out of his mother’s womb to grip his surgeon’s hand at Vanderbilt University in 1999. Little Samuel was only 21 weeks gestation at that time.

Americans overwhelmingly support banning late-term abortion and restricting it during the first trimester. A recent Marist poll found 75% of Americans, including 61% of those who identify as pro-choice, say abortion should be banned at the very least after the first trimester.

It is the state's highest duty to protect the health of mothers and the life of babies. States should be free to enact laws to do that in the best way possible, as Mississippi has done.



Penny Nance, CEO and President of Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC) stated, "We are thrilled that the Supreme Court gets another shot at correcting the nonsensical and unscientific structure established under *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. It is way past time for the *Roe* house of cards to come down. Women deserve better. Concerned Women for America members are ready! We cherish the opportunity to have this debate inside and outside the courtroom."

Mario Diaz, CWA's General Counsel, informs us that the *Dobbs* case will be heard December 1, 2021 at the Supreme Court, and the decision is expected in May, 2022. [CWA submitted an amicus brief on your behalf](#), making clear that women's health should never be irrelevant in the abortion context, no matter the stage of pregnancy. [CWA cherishes the opportunity](#) to address the nation's highest Court on such an important topic that has caused so much pain to women, the more than 62 million babies lost to abortion since *Roe v. Wade*, and to the country. The amicus brief and the *Dobbs*' Talking Points can be read at concernedwomen.org.

Freedom Rings for Religious Liberty

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

--Galatians 6:9

The U.S. Supreme Court's unanimous decision in June affirms South Dakota's law preserving religious liberty in adoption agency protection. SB149 was signed into law in 2017 by then Gov. Dennis Daugaard (Republican) as a proactive measure to protect faith-based adoption agencies from having to close their doors rather than violate their stated beliefs and mission.

In the recent [Fulton v. City of Philadelphia](#) decision, the Court acknowledged, "The refusal of Philadelphia to contract with CSS [Catholic Social Services] for the provision of foster care services unless CSS agrees to certify same-sex couples as foster parents violates the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment."

Children are the real winners here. Children in foster care or in need of a forever home have benefitted from religious communities like CSS who selflessly provide a valuable service to families and to children. Faith-based organizations should not be discriminated against and forced to give up the free exercise of their First Amendment rights in order to serve their communities with their much-needed ministries. This decision will simply allow those agencies, like our South Dakota agencies, to continue to serve.



Join Us in Prayer for those in Afghanistan

LORD,

Words fail to express the sorrow of the Body of Christ here in America as we consider the fate of our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan.

The images are just heartbreaking. The stories, agonizing. We grieve for those in such perilous situations wondering what awaits their families.

Help, Lord! We humbly ask for Your guidance for our leaders and those with the power and means to come to their aid.

We consider, and plead especially, for the women and children who are specifically targeted by the evil rule of the Taliban. Rise against it, Lord.

10 Useful Legislative Terms to Navigate Congress

Many times we hear our elected officials use terms that are employed every day in their world of politics but are foreign to the average citizen. Below is an explanation of those terms to help us understand Congressional proceedings. These are terms that are used mostly at the federal level and not at the state level.

Fiscal Year

Applies in the House and Senate

The fiscal year for the federal government begins on October 1, and ends on September 30. For example, fiscal year 1999, or “FY99,” began on October 1, 1998, and ended on September 30, 1999.

Appropriations Bill

Applies in the House and Senate

An appropriations bill provides the legal authority needed to spend or obligate U.S. Treasury funds. There are 13 annual appropriations bills that together fund the entire federal government. These 13 bills must all be enacted prior to the start of a new fiscal year, designated as October 1. Failure to meet this deadline causes the need for temporary short-term funding or results in a shutdown.

Omnibus

Applies in the House and Senate

An omnibus bill packages together several measures into one or combines diverse subjects into a single bill. Examples are reconciliation bills, combined appropriations bills, and private relief and claims bills.

Continuing Resolution

Applies in the House and Senate

A continuing resolution, also known as a “CR,” continues funding for a program if the fiscal year ends without a new appropriation in place. A “CR” provides temporary funding at current levels or less.

Mark-Up

Applies in the House and Senate

A mark-up refers to the meeting of a committee held to review the text of a bill before reporting it out. Committee members offer and vote on proposed changes to the bill’s language, known as amendments. Most mark-ups end with a vote to send the version of the bill to the floor for final approval.

Cloture

Applies in the Senate

Cloture is the formal procedure used to end a filibuster. It can take up to three days and requires 60 votes. Cloture can also

be used, even if there is no filibuster underway to ban non-germane amendments. If cloture wins, 30 additional hours of debate are allowed prior to voting, but they are rarely used. If cloture fails, debate will continue without limits. Instead, the bill is usually set aside. Note: under rules adopted in 2013, the cloture rule was moved from three-fifths to a simple majority vote for judicial and cabinet-level nominations.

Filibuster

Applies in the Senate

A Filibuster is the term used for an extended debate in the Senate that has the effect of preventing a vote. Senate rules contain no motion to force a vote. A vote occurs only once debate ends. The term comes from the early 19th century Spanish and Portuguese pirates, “filibusteros,” who held ships hostage for ransom.

Motion to Recommit

Applies in the House

A motion to recommit returns a bill to committee, in effect killing it. However, a motion to recommit with instructions is a last opportunity to amend the bill. The instructions to the committee direct changes to the text of the bill. If adopted, the chairman of the named committee immediately stands and reports the change back to the House. The next step is the House vote of final passage of the bill. Minority Members receive priority of recognition for offering motions to recommit.

Suspension of the Rules

Applies in the House

Suspension of the Rules is a special procedure used to speed up action by setting aside the regular rules. Bills brought up under this process are debated for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and require a two-thirds vote.

Discharge Petition

Applies in the House

A Discharge Petition starts a process to force a bill out of committee. A successful petition requires the signatures of 218 members, which is a majority of the House.

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 at 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.