



# CONCERNED WOMEN *for* AMERICA OF SOUTH DAKOTA

SPRING 2023 ISSUE

## Help Not 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

### Were you aware that South Dakota was home to so-called “gender affirming care”?

When we think of “gender affirming care,” appreciation and affirmation of one’s sex as male or female created by God comes to mind. Sadly, however, the current definition means “affirmation and physical intervention” in one’s “perceived or desired” sex.

Late last Fall, Concerned Women for America (CWA) of South Dakota was alerted that Sanford Health Systems was providing the current definition of affirmation “care.” Furthermore, Sanford was scheduled to be the host of the [3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Midwest Gender Identity Summit](#) partnering with the [Transformation Project](#) in Sioux Falls. The Transformation Project is a non-profit whose mission is “supporting and empowering transgender youth” and promotes the lie that men and women can change their gender. This Project conducts events “where participants, including children, ritually ‘burn’ their ‘old name or pronouns.’”

We were appalled that a South Dakota Health Care Institution would be in the lucrative business of promoting a deceptive ideology that inflicts life-altering and irreversible “treatments” on healthy young people. We have come to trust medical professionals to “do no harm” and counsel youth in determining the root of their dysphoria rather than promote life-altering and regrettable procedures.

CWA of South Dakota members contacted the President and CEO of Sanford Health Systems, urging him to cancel the “Summit” event. CWA drafted a [letter](#), joined by a coalition of national policy leaders and child safety advocates, and sent it to Gov. Kristi Noem (R), bringing to her attention this event and the pernicious “treatment” being inflicted on children by a once-trusted health care entity.

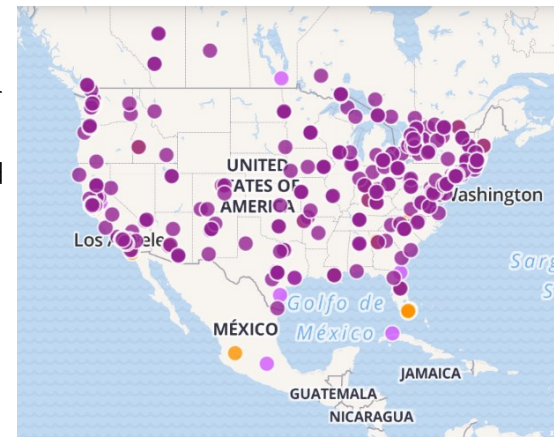
The letter urged Gov. Noem to “speak out against the

[misguided message](#) of this summit” and become aware of “what type of gender reassignment procedures are happening to youth through Sanford Health and its affiliates.”

Thankfully, Gov. Noem immediately canceled the state’s contract with the Transformation Project. She stated, “We should not be dividing our youth with radical ideologies. We should treat every single individual equally as a human being.” Despite her comments, the Gender Identity Summit proceeded as planned, but it raised awareness that this activity was happening in South Dakota.

The South Dakota Legislature has made several attempts to pass legislation to ensure youth are not allowed to be deceived in matters of their created sex, including a prohibition on “gender affirming care” in [2020](#). After exposing these activities at Sanford Health, there was renewed hope that a bill this South Dakota Session would be passed and signed by the governor. We were pleased that Rep. Bethany Soye (R-District 9) prime-sponsored [HB1080](#), the “Help Not Harm” bill. HB1080 passed overwhelmingly in the House [60-10](#) and in the Senate [30-4](#) and was signed by Gov. Noem.

HB1080 prohibits the radical “treatment” for gender dysphoria,



According to [THE GENDER MAPPING PROJECT](#), there are over 200 transgender clinics in North America compared to just a handful in 2010. Thanks to HB1080 the nefarious abuse of children at Sanford Health has been banned.

which involves puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and irreversible surgeries like double mastectomies and genital removal or reconstruction to “become” the opposite sex. The bill allows for civil action for damages to the minor for such “treatment.” Additionally, if a healthcare professional is in violation of the terms of HB1080, his professional license must be revoked.

### Protecting Vulnerable Children from Medical Harm

Gender dysphoric children in the United States are being referred for radical treatment involving unverified medical interventions. These interventions impose permanent damage to normal bodily development and sexual functioning, including sterilization. Minors making self-determinations about their sex have minimal understanding of their sexual function and the life-long consequences of such radical, irreversible interventions. The fluid nature of gender dysphoria is evidenced by the

fact that [80% to 90%](#) post-puberty youth decide to return to or remain in their biological sex. Sadly, many have already allowed irreversible damage to their bodies.

Parents are pressured into consenting to “treatment” for their child confused about his or her sex due to much misinformation. The fear of suicide pushes many parents to consent. Their given choice is: Would you rather have a live son or a dead daughter? Many children with dysphoria have experienced some childhood trauma, sexual abuse, or pornography. Therefore, getting to the root of the problem –including suicide ideation –with compassionate counseling is the solution. Life-changing drugs are not. Our prayer is that troubled youth would be happy and healthy in the sex that God created them to be.

Read more about this issue [here](#).

## Points From Pierre

“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your path straight.” -Proverbs 3:6

The 2023 South Dakota 38-day legislative session began on January 10 and ended on Veto Day, March 27. Your CWA of South Dakota volunteer leaders represented your interests throughout the session. Each bill considered was aligned with one of CWA’s core issues: the sanctity of life, education, religious liberty, sexual exploitation, definition of family, national sovereignty, and support for Israel. All bills, actions, and legislator information can be accessed at [sdlegislature.gov](#). If you have any questions, feel free to phone Linda at (605) 380-6914.

### Sanctity of Life

[HB1053](#) would prohibit a pregnant or breastfeeding mother from receiving a medical cannabis (marijuana) card. Marijuana use does not contribute to a healthy mother or a healthy baby. HB1053 passed unanimously and was signed by the Governor.

[HB1220](#) would clarify that the woman who undergoes an unlawful abortion may not be held criminally liable. This is a long-held stance of the pro-life movement. Often the woman is coerced or in dire circumstances. This passed overwhelmingly and was signed by the Governor.

[SCR602](#) was a resolution affirming the Legislature's support of the United States Supreme Court decision *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. SCR602 passed overwhelmingly. We are grateful that after nearly 50 years, *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, allowing the

decision of abortion to be returned to the states.

### Education

[SB57](#) was a bad bill that would have taken away the privilege given to homeschool students two years ago ([SB177](#)), allowing them to participate in public school activities in a district other than their own. We felt this was unfair because it targeted homeschooled students, banning them from open enrolling when public school students had the freedom to do so. SB57 was defeated in

the Senate Education Committee.

### Gambling

[SB117](#) would have increased the dollar limit on video lottery machines. CWA of South Dakota has always opposed the expansion of gambling due to its addictive nature and the harm to the family. SB117 was narrowly defeated in the Senate. [HB1157](#) was a good bill that would

have required the “South Dakota Lottery to promote public awareness on the adverse effects of gambling.” There are ads revealing the dangers of drinking, drugs, etc., while video lottery is portrayed as “fun.” Why shouldn’t the gambling industry be mandated to show the addictive nature of gambling? HB1157 was defeated in the House Commerce and Energy Committee.

[HJR5006](#) was opposed by CWA of South Dakota. This same measure was brought and defeated in 2022. It would have placed the decision on the November 2024



ballot to allow sports wagering via electronic device in South Dakota. The voters decided on the 2020 ballot to allow sports wagering only in Deadwood. HJR5006 would have expanded sports wagering, increasing the gambling addiction problem. South Dakota ranks second in the nation next to Nevada for gambling addiction. HJR5006 was defeated in the House.

### Sexual Exploitation

[SB192](#) would have required internet pornography sites to vet their users to authorize they are not minors.

Pornography is a public health crisis. Different studies show that children are first exposed to pornography by the ages of five through nine. SB192 would have prevented minors from accessing internet pornography but was defeated in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

[HB1163](#) would have prohibited “the dissemination of obscene material to minors in a public school or public library.” Increasingly, parents are noticing the obscene materials in our libraries, and HB1163 would have required a policy to vet books that are made available to children. HB1163 failed in committee.

[SB70](#) would prevent child witnesses from being required to testify in a courtroom setting where their accused sexual abuser was present. It is difficult for an adult to testify in front of her abuser, let alone a child. SB70 passed and was signed by the governor.

[HB1116](#) would have prohibited “the use of state resources in hosting lewd or lascivious content.” HB1116 would have ensured that state resources are not used for “lewd and lascivious events,” a term defined in law. You may recall that the Vermillion public library was the location of a “kid-friendly” Drag Queen Story Hour. More recently, the Gender and Sexualities Alliance hosted a “kid-friendly” drag show at South Dakota State University. “Drag” is mostly cross-dressing men “parading around as hyper-sexualized women.” This is an outright assault on

the innocence of our children. It is an egregious attack on our culture and values. The lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, etc. radicals are bent on poisoning and grooming our children with gender radicalism as a normal and necessary experience for all children. Interestingly, a drag queen was invited to a White House event “celebrating” the codifying of homosexual marriage last December.

HB1116 passed in the House [60-10](#) but failed in the Senate Education Committee. An attempt to bring it to the Senate floor for debate and a vote failed [15-18](#).

### National Sovereignty

[HJR5005](#) was the annual reoccurring Article V Constitutional Convention (aka Convention of States) resolution for an application to Congress to call for a Constitutional Convention “to impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, to limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and to limit the terms of office for federal officials and members of Congress.” We opposed HJR5005 because it would open the Constitution up to any and every desire of unelected delegates. The Constitution is not the problem; it already imposes fiscal restraints and limits the power and jurisdiction of the federal government. It just needs to be obeyed. HJR5005 was defeated in the House State Affairs Committee [9-2-2](#). A smoke-out attempt failed. For more information on this topic, click [here](#).

[HJR5002](#) was another Article V Constitutional Convention resolution “for proposing an amendment establishing congressional term limits.” We opposed this as we do all applications for a Constitutional Convention. Term limits deny the voter the liberty to vote for his or her choice of candidate. HJR5002 was defeated in the House State Affairs Committee [9-2](#). For more information on this topic, click [here](#).

## ESG and Wokeism

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.” -Matthew 6:33

ESG stands for “environmental, social, and governance scores.” It is a set of standards used to measure, at its core, a company’s “wokeness.” The more woke a company is—think Green New Deal policies, abortion travel policies, and diversity quotas—the better its “ESG score” and the more access the company attains for capital, credit, and other financial perks.



light on this subject: ESG investors who push for “decarbonization,” e.g., demand not just disinvestment in energy but also occupations and practices that use energy—such as farming, especially dairy and meat cattle farming. Think of the negative impact on South Dakota!

Jerry Bowyer, a Christian financial economist, helps shed

So far, “S” and “G” scores appear to be pro-abortion policies and “gender diversity” quotas on boards, with pressure on

businesses to comply. ESG is an approach to investing that brings politics—particularly Left politics—and inserts it into the financial process. What is important to remember is investment decisions should be based on financial criteria, not politics. Investment fund managers are now considering ESG in banking (the central “managers”), public and private university endowments, and pension plans, especially in deep blue states.

Corporate wokeism, e.g., Walmart and Target, is a social phenomenon of which ESG is a particular expression. ESG is wokeism from the standpoint of the investor. Some corporations exhibit wokeism on their own because they have an ideologically oriented CEO, e.g., Salesforce or BlackRock. But often, it has to be pushed on companies.

Wokeism is being used to promote abortion policies. For instance, asset managers will introduce and vote for shareholder resolutions that support abortion. However, some shareholders are pushing back. Costco had a shareholder vote that was pro-abortion, and it just went down in flames. Another example of ESG wokeism is faith-based organizations or Christians being de-banked for having traditional views on marriage.

Investors are finding out that the far Left cannot be appeased. Revolutionary ideologies never get enough. It is imperative that Christians begin to engage in the fight against ESG.

REMINDER: Everything, including the financial industry, is under the Lord’s domain.

Source: [concernedwomen.org/making-sense-of-esg-with-jerry-bowyer/](https://concernedwomen.org/making-sense-of-esg-with-jerry-bowyer/)

**ACTION:** If your financial advisors are in charge, you need to talk to them. Advisors need to feel the pressure from investors to vote their values. Shareholders have power highly analogous to citizens in a republic.

## Decline to Sign South Dakota’s Radical Abortion Petition

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

Last June, when *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, our South Dakota trigger statute went into effect, banning abortion in our state. That prohibition is still in effect today in our state law.

However, those who support abortion oppose our law and are intent on solidifying unfettered abortion in our South Dakota Constitution and are bringing a Constitutional amendment that will:

- ◆ Allow abortion through all nine months of pregnancy.
- ◆ Override parental notification laws respecting minors seeking abortions.
- ◆ Force doctors and nurses to perform abortions against their will.
- ◆ Force taxpayers to fund abortion.

These abortion radicals are traveling our state soliciting

signatures on petitions. They need 35,017 valid signatures to qualify their abortion measure to be placed on the 2024 ballot to have South Dakotans decide on the right to abortion in the state.

Do not be fooled by their deceptive tactics claiming the petition is a “life issue,” or “health issue.” They may even falsely claim that it is a “religious freedom” issue. We have learned that they are gathering signatures at retirement homes.

**DO NOT SIGN THE PETITION.**

Tell your friends and family not to be fooled by the trickery. Learn more about how you can help at [LifeDefenseFund.com](https://LifeDefenseFund.com).

**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](https://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.