



CONCERNED WOMEN *for* AMERICA OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Fall 2023 ISSUE

Shine the Light into the Darkness of Sexual Exploitation

“Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy.

Deliver the poor and needy; Free them from the hand of the wicked.” Psalm 82:3-4

The *Sound of Freedom* movie opened July 4 in theaters across the country and shocked millions of Americans with the reality of the horror of the child sex trafficking tragedy occurring in our country and around the world. Based on a true story, the movie follows Tim Ballard (played by Jim Caviezel), a former Homeland Security agent who, burdened for enslaved children, works to rescue them. His guiding principle is “God’s children are not for sale.”

Sound of Freedom reveals the insidious method traffickers use to enslave vulnerable children. For example, a brother and sister are deceptively promised the “life of a star” and snatched away from their family. Sometimes, victims are simply kidnapped off the street. Or they may be sold by their family to a “buyer,” promising these victims a credible job in another country, with the hope of sending money home to their family. Social media lures children into sex crimes. Once trafficked, cartels use physical and emotional threats to control their victim, such as harm to their family if they “misbehave.”

“Sometimes we think child trafficking and sexual exploitation are distant issues that are prevalent in other countries but not here in the United States. But that is very far from the truth. At the end of the movie, a few statistics depicting how prevalent this issue is to the U.S. came on the screen. Human labor and sex trafficking is a [\\$150 billion](#) industry every year, with the U.S. being one of the [top locations](#) for human trafficking and one of the biggest consumers of child sex. The numbers are hard to believe. There are more people in slavery today than ever before, and the United States, the land of freedom, is playing a huge role in this.” (Shelby Barrow, CWA intern)



Girls, as well as boys, comprise half the victims of human trafficking ([1.7 million](#) worldwide), with the average age being twelve. Trafficking can occur anywhere, and a trafficker can be anyone. The [Super Bowl](#) brings the most trafficking activity to its host city. National [political conventions](#) are another hotspot. In South Dakota, [hunting season](#) and the [Sturgis Motorcycle Rally](#) are prime targets for sexual trafficking.

Anti-trafficking organizations in South Dakota work together to combat this atrocity in our state. The native population is especially vulnerable. After much effort, a toll-free number was secured and is now visible at service stations, restaurants, and other public places. Campgrounds, hotels, and other businesses are alert to trafficking victims, especially during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and during hunting season.

The [U.S. Department of State](#) has listed some key red flags so one can recognize a potential trafficking victim:

- ◆ Living with “employer”
- ◆ Poor living conditions
- ◆ Multiple people living in cramped spaces
- ◆ Inability to speak to individual alone
- ◆ “Employer” is holding identity documents
- ◆ Signs of physical abuse, submissive or fearful, etc.

Some questions to carefully ask a suspected trafficking victim:

- ◆ Can you come and go as you please?
- ◆ Have you been hurt or threatened?
- ◆ Has your family been threatened?
- ◆ Where do you sleep and eat?

With the increased awareness *Sound of Freedom* brings, the pornography industry and our open border play a huge role in these atrocities to our children.

Will you pray with CWA of South Dakota that our state can pass more effective legislation that will stifle this sexual exploitation and the pornography that feeds it? As believers, we must pray for these vulnerable children and adults and that justice will prevail. "...if My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and

seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (II Chronicles 7:14)

Click [here](#) for Scriptural prayer points for the trafficking victims.

Parental Rights vs. Woke Worldview

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Worldview is the lens through which a person sees the world. According to [Focus on the Family](#), a biblical worldview is based on the infallible Word of God. When you believe the Bible is entirely true, then you allow it to be the foundation of everything you say and do.

Today, we are on a worldview collision course in our country regarding the upbringing of children. Parents with a more traditional—and often Christian background—believe it is their right and responsibility to train their children according to their worldview without the interference of others, especially schools. Parents want their children to be educated on foundational skills of reading, writing, and math and to instill American exceptionalism – not indoctrinate them with immoral Leftist ideology.

News stories are exposing the growing number of schools and extracurricular programs with "woke" administrators, teachers, and staff. Concerned parents and other citizens

have been protesting this Leftist ideology and speaking out at school board meetings in support of these basic parental rights and more.



- ◆ Notify parents when their minor child expresses transgender inclinations.
- ◆ Ensuring that parents have the right to have a say in keeping objectionable material out of classrooms and libraries.
- ◆ Ensuring parental authority to remove their children when the

parent decides their child should be opted out of certain presentations.

- ◆ Ensuring parents have the right to speak freely at school board meetings because the school board members work for the parents and students.

"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children ..." Deuteronomy 6:6-9

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

South Dakota's good trigger statute bans abortion in our state since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. However, those who support abortion oppose our law and are intent on solidifying unfettered abortion in our South Dakota Constitution. You may read the text of the proposed amendment as well as the Attorney General's explanation [here](#). [The proposed](#) Constitutional amendment 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.
- ◆ The vague word "effectuation" would deny health and safety protections for women seeking abortion.
- ◆ The broad "health" exception, as defined by the U.S. Supreme Court, includes "physical, emotional, psychological, familial and the woman's age."

Abortion radicals are traveling our state, soliciting signatures on petitions. Petitioners are at fairs, gun or

craft shows, sporting events, courthouses, parades, etc. 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 so-called right to abortion in the state.

Volunteers are Needed!

Pro-life volunteers are needed to expose the lies and bring the truth. Volunteers simply hand people an informative flyer (provided by LifeDefenseFund.com) and ask them to “Decline to Sign” the radical abortion petition.

Do not be fooled by abortion advocates’ deceptive tactics claiming the petition is a “life” issue,” or “health” issue. They may even falsely claim that it is a “religious freedom” issue. **Do not sign the petition.**

Tell your friends and family not to be fooled by the trickery. Learn more about how you can help and obtain flyers at LifeDefenseFund.com.

DECLINE TO SIGN THE PETITION!

Be an Influencer

“The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.” Edmund Burke

Do you ever feel that you waste too much time on social media? As a Women for America Influencer, you can become an agent for good and make a big difference with a small action – as quick as a click. We all know someone who needs to know what’s happening in our nation. Whether your personal network is one person or a million, you can play an integral role in spreading the truth about our nation’s ever-evolving stance on these issues to those who need to know.

You can become a Women for America Influencer while connecting with others. [Click here to learn more.](#)

CWA in Action on Capitol Hill

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58

As part of the September 2023 CWA Summit in Washington, D.C., Lisa Gennaro and I were your voice on Capitol Hill lobbying our South Dakota senators and our representative on a critical life issue. We visited Senate staff to educate them on the *Standing with Moms Act* and educated House staff on the House version of the bill.

The *Standing with Moms Act* would create a website (Life.gov) listing local, state, and federal resources already available for expectant moms and families. This one-stop-

shop website would list public and private resources available in her zip code to assist her throughout pregnancy and afterward: health care and OB-GYN services, financial assistance, food and nutrition assistance, local pregnancy resource centers, ultrasound imaging, counseling, child development information, adoption services, abortion pill reversal, and much more.

We have seen the impact of empowering women with all the information they need in times of an unplanned pregnancy. For example, most women choose life rather than abortion when they know they have support before and after the baby is born.



South Dakota lobby team discusses the *Standing with Moms Act* with Rep. Dusty Johnson’s (SD-R) staff.

ACTION: Please contact our South Dakota delegation, urging them to either co-sponsor the bill or thank them for being a co-sponsor:

Sen. Mike Rounds: Request he co-sponsor S.76, the *Standing with Moms Act*. [Email](#) or phone 202-224-5842.
Sen. John Thune: Thank Sen. Thune for co-sponsoring S.76. [Email](#) or phone 202-224-2321.

Rep. Dusty Johnson: Thank Rep. Johnson for co-sponsoring the Life.gov Act. [Email](#) or phone 202-225-2801.



CWA of South Dakota Lisa Gennaro is awarded the Legislative Liaison of the Year at the CWA Leadership Summit by VP of Field Operations Tanya Ditty.



OTC Pill Primed to Aid Sex Traffickers

“The Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.” Psalm 19:7

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first over-the-counter hormonal birth control pill this year on July 13, a drug that contains a single synthetic hormone previously in a class known as “the minipill.” This hormonal contraceptive (H.C.) will be dispensed over the counter at pharmacies with **No** physician, **No** examination, **No** prescription, **No** consultation, **No** medical record, and **No** medical care, even though studies show that **H.C./birth control pills lead to deaths in 300-400 women each year.**

Over-the-counter birth control makes it extremely easy for pedophiles, rapists, and sex traffickers to abuse more and more women and children. Criminals will feel safer from prosecution if their victims are plied with readily available pills to prevent pregnancy.

There are many reasons why a woman should be under a physician’s care when seeking hormonal contraception (H.C.):

- Women and girls under 30 face a **thirteen-fold increase** of venous thromboembolism in the first year of use. That risk can jump to a **sixty-two-fold increase** in the first year of use should a woman have thrombophilia, the genetic disposition to form blood clots.
- Women might not be fully informed of risks and signs to watch for should alarming symptoms arise, indicating the need to seek medical care.

- Medications a woman takes might not be reviewed, and she could incur complications when taking H.C. with certain prescription drugs.
- A physician might be the first line of defense for a woman in a sex-trafficking situation. The doctor is required to report this to authorities.

Questions about use by minors:

- Will teens be consistent in their regimen of taking the pill every day—and at the recommended same time of day—to prevent pregnancy?
- Will this pill lead to more abortions, especially in underage girls?
- Has anyone studied the risks to the growth and health of young women?
- Will boyfriends and/or pimps take advantage of young women due to the availability of this drug?

It’s anti-woman not to require medical oversight for this potentially harmful drug.

Sources:

1. “A Bitter Pill for Women’s Health” by Tamara Scott, <https://concernedwomen.org/a-bitter-pill-for-womens-health/>
2. https://www.newsmax.com/finance/streettalk/perrigo-otc-contraceptive-pill-fda/2023/07/13/id/1126957/?ns_mail_uid=eabe4e40-6e9b-4d85-b45a-dd0e5da2b098&ns_mail_job=DM500296_07132023&s=acs&dkn_br=010502vqbkdj

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CWA Membership State & National: A donation of \$25 or more as 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.