

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* **AMERICA**
 LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

Pennsylvania’s Legislative Priorities 2023-24

Bills with current updates will be highlighted in the last column.

 Last updated: April 1, 2024

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1. Click this [link](#) to go to the OpenStates.org website.
2. Type in your full address and click “Search”.

List of bills we are tracking that align to [CWA’s Seven Core Issues](#)

| <i>Bill Number</i> | <i>Summary</i> | <i>Sponsor</i> | <i>CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position)</i> | <i>Issue</i> | <i>Resources/Information</i> | <i>Status/Action</i> |
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| <i>Religious Liberty</i> | | | | | | |
| HB392 | The Constitutions of the United States and Pennsylvania protect the religious freedom of individuals, including school students. However, many students attending public schools, as well as their families, fear that a student’s engaging in religious speech or activities will subject the student to discrimination, such as a denial of the privilege of speaking at a school-sponsored event. This legislation creates the Student Religious Liberties Act will provide certain protections to students attending public | Rep. Rob Kauffman (R) District 89 | Support | Student Religious Liberties Act | More specifically, this bill will: Prohibit a public school entity from discriminating against a student who engages in the voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject. Discriminate against a student who expresses religious beliefs in homework, artwork and other written and oral assignments. Allow a student to pray or engage in religious activity or religious expression before, during and after the school day in the same manner and to the same extent as a student may engage in secular activities or expression. Allow a student to organize a religious gathering before, during and after the school day to the same extent as a student may organize a secular gathering. Require | Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u> , March 14, 2023 [House] |

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| | schools, including traditional school districts, charter and cyber charter schools, area vocational-technical schools and intermediate units. | | | | a public school entity to provide a religious group the same access to school facilities and property for assembling or advertising events as is provided to secular groups. Allow a student to wear clothing, accessories and jewelry displaying a religious symbol or message in the same manner and to the same extent that a student may wear clothing, accessories and jewelry that display a secular message or symbol. Prohibit a public school entity from discriminating against a student speaker based on the student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject. Require the Department of Education to develop a model policy that is consistent with the act, and further require each public school entity to adopt the model policy or to adopt its own policy for the protection of student religious liberties that is consistent with the act. Preserve a public school entity's authority to maintain order and discipline on its school campus and protect the safety of school students, employees and visitors. | |

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| HR333 | A resolution to recognize April 2024 as “Faith Month” in Pennsylvania. The Constitutions of the United States and Pennsylvania protect the religious freedom of individuals. Religious freedom is the right to live and work according to one’s beliefs – and this freedom is for everyone | Rep. Joseph Hamm (R) District 84 | Support | April 2024 Faith Month Resolution | The First Amendment guarantees that no one is coerced by the government into retreating from civil and political life because of their beliefs. We must be vigilant in protecting this foundational principle of our free society. We need to support the liberty of conscience in our Commonwealth by co-sponsoring this resolution. | Referred to JUDICIARY , March 5, 2024 [House] |
| SB693 | An Act prohibiting the mandatory COVID-19 vaccination of Pennsylvania residents by the Commonwealth, political subdivisions or as a condition of employment. The Medical Freedom Act will prohibit a state agency or political subdivision from mandating an individual to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. It also clearly states that an individual in the commonwealth may not | Sen. Doug Mastriano (R) District 33 | Support | Medical Freedom Act | The Lancet, one of the world's oldest and best-known general medical journals, reported in an October 2021 study that COVID-19 vaccines have "minimal" impact on preventing transmission. A study by the New England Journal of Medicine in February 2022 came to a similar conclusion. Even the current director of the CDC, Rochelle Walensky, admitted in a 2022 interview that “Covid vaccines can't prevent transmission anymore.” This new information further proves that all COVID vaccination decisions are personal decisions that should be made by the individual, including | Referred to HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES , May 15, 2023 [Senate] |

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| | be discriminated against, denied services, or denied medical care for refusal to accept a COVID-19 vaccination. | | | | the right to informed consent or informed refusal. Many Pennsylvanians have lost and continue to lose their livelihoods and access to basic services due to misguided COVID vaccine mandates. This legislation will prohibit all employers in the state from taking any adverse employment action against an individual for the sole reason of the individual's decision to decline a COVID-19 vaccination. Last session, this bill was passed out of the Senate Health and Human Services committee. | |
| SB682 | An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in miscellaneous provisions relating to marriage, repealing provisions relating to marriage between persons of the same sex. Legislation to bring our laws up to date by repealing Section 1704 (Marriage Between Persons of the Same Sex) of Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of | Sen Carolyn Comitta (D) District 19 | Oppose | Marriage Equality Act | The bottom line is that marriage is special union created as a holy covenant between man, woman, and God. It is the best institution by which our children are conceived. Marriage identifies the recognizable authority of a mother and a father who are ordained with the responsibility of rearing the future generation. We could never grant these same responsibilities to two heterosexuals who simply live together, because marriage is more than a living arrangement. All the love in the world can't make a mother into a father and a father into a mother. In a free country, everyone is free to live and love as | Referred to <u>JUDICIARY</u> , May 15, 2023 [Senate] |

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| | the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, which currently only recognizes marriage between a man and woman. | | | | they choose, but no one is entitled to redefine marriage for all of us. If marriage is redefined, then the family is redefined. This redefinition will require an adjustment on behalf of people of faith in most areas of public life, not the least of which is education. One simply follows the other. | |
| SB697 | This bill amends Section 3307 of Title 18 (Institutional Vandalism) to enhance the existing statute and make several technical changes meant to give a district attorney expanded options for combating vandalism of sacred spaces such as faith institutions, cemeteries, or memorials. | Sen Sharif Street (D) District 3 | Support | Protecting our Sacred Places | Over the past few years we've seen churches, synagogues, mosques, and other places of worship targeted deliberately by those who wish to express hate. Recently, a "National Day of Hate" garnered significant attention and warnings from law enforcement about possible attacks on religious institutions across the United States. This rhetoric has consequences. In Philadelphia alone, we've seen Jewish cemeteries targeted by vandals and just within the last few weeks the Masjidullah mosque was defaced. In Reading, the Jesus is Alive World Center was recently | Referred to <u>JUDICIARY</u> , May 15, 2023 [Senate] |

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| | | | | | severely damaged. These acts or threats are meant to intimidate entire religious groups and an inadequate response from government allows them to develop into further violent acts of hate. This is unacceptable in our nation where we pride ourselves on our foundation of free exercise of religion. | |
| HB1026 HB1027 HB1024 HB1025 | An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in assault, further providing for the offense of ethnic intimidation; and, in particular rights and immunities, further prohibiting civil rights violations. Package of legislation intended to modernize our laws to address hate crimes | Rep. Dan Frankel (D) District 23 | Oppose | Anti-Hate Crimes Package | Violates equal protection by treating some victims as more worthy of protection than others. This package would add additional punishments for crimes committed against protected classes of people based on race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, and more. Injects identity politics into Pennsylvania criminal law, enshrines “sexual orientation” as worthy of special protection. Does not define “sexual orientation,” leaving that term open to expansion. The American Psychological Association and other LGBT activists are already pushing to have pedophilia | Referred to <u>JUDICIARY</u> , April 25, 2023 [House] First Consideration, May 24, 2023 Laid on the table, May 24, 2023 Second Consideration July 7, 2023 Re-committed to Appropriations July 7, 2023 3 rd Consideration, Final Passage October 31, 2023 |

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| | and ethnic intimidation. These bills would align Pennsylvania's protected classes with those included at the federal level: individuals or groups targeted because of their race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender | | | | reclassified as a sexual orientation. "Invites anonymous tips of so-called "hate based intimidation" that could blacklist and demonize those who speak up about human sexuality, marriage, and what it means to be male and female. This could further weaponize our cancel-culture and result in state-sanctioned discrimination." Hope for PA | HB1024 112 Y, 90 N Referred to Senate Judiciary November 9, 2023 HB 1025 111 Y, 91 N Referred to Senate Judiciary November 9, 2023 HB 1027 116 Y, 86 N |
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| HB242 | This bill allows parents and legal guardians to “opt-out” their child from having to comply with a school’s mask mandate. | Rep. Stephanie Borowicz (R) District 76 | Support | Parental Rights Regarding Masks in Schools | This legislation will require all school districts to develop a form that will allow parents or legal guardians to sign off on “opting-out” their child from a mask mandate. Furthermore, the form must clearly state that the child is not to be isolated, separated from classmates, or otherwise left out of participation in school activities. Parents and legal guardians have the fundamental right to make health and educational decisions that are best suited for their children. | Referred to <u>HEALTH</u> , March 10, 2023 [House] |
| HR63 | American women are free to serve and proud to serve, but they should not be forced to serve. Women’s equality does not mean being the same as men. | Rep. Jose Giral (D) District 180 | Oppose | Making Selective Service Gender Neutral | https://concernedwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/CWALAC-Fact-Sheet-Dont-Draft-Our-Daughters-2021-1.pdf | Referred to <u>VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS</u> , April 3, 2023 [House] |

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| HB456 | The motto "In God We Trust" is part of the history and heritage of the United States. On April 22, 2014, we celebrated the 150th Anniversary of our national motto "In God We Trust" on our coins. | Rep. Perry Stambaugh (R) District 86 | Support | Ability to Display the National Motto, "In God We Trust," in Public Schools | <p>HB456 will allow school districts to display the motto in each school building. Such displays could take the form of mounted plaques or artwork from a student contest, and can be prominently displayed in each school building.</p> <p>This measure has passed the House overwhelmingly in past sessions.</p> | Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u> , March 16, 2023 [House] |
| HB575 | This bill seeks to address so called harms associated with conversion therapy by prohibiting a mental health professional from engaging in this "archaic" treatment with an individual under the age of 18. | Rep. Jessica Benham (D) District 36 | Oppose | Protection of Minors from Conversion Therapy | Bad laws set bad precedents. The ultimate ramification will be on religious freedom and the ability of a church to preach and teach the full counsel of God. | Referred to <u>HEALTH</u> , March 20, 2023 [House] |

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| SB150 | This legislation prohibits discrimination based on an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. No Pennsylvanian should be fired from a job, or denied housing, or excluded from public spaces because of who they are. | Sen. Steven J. Santarsiero (D) District 10 Sen. Nikil Saval (D) District 1 | Oppose | Prohibiting discrimination based on an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity or expression | This bill will threaten and discriminate against the religious liberties of individuals and business owners to live out their religious convictions without penalties such as: biologically two sexes, marriage is a union between one man and one woman. This again is another way of governmental interference in the marketplace, violates our 1st amendment rights and creates rights for a special groups of people. | Referred to <u>LABOR AND INDUSTRY</u> , March 15, 2023 [Senate] |
| HB568 | Recent events have placed vaccinations and disease outbreaks into the forefront of our public policy discussions. The demands of doctors over the rights of parents and patients to receive necessary information seems to be the driving cause behind the hesitation of some parents to vaccinate. | Rep. David Zimmerman (R) District 99 | Support | Immunization Freedom Act | Families who seek to have their children fully immunized, but on an alternative schedule, which varies even slightly from the CDC face irrational anger and scrutiny from health care practitioners they are to trust with providing medical advice. No other area of medicine excludes the parent/patient from the decision-making process like vaccinations do. This legislation is the first step in allowing the families and the physicians to work together to craft a vaccination schedule which recognizes the individual nature of every patient and the needs of every family. | Referred to HEALTH, March 20, 2023 [House] |

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| SB84 | First Amendment Right to Freedom of Religious Expression | Sen. Kristen Phillips-Hill (R) District 93 Sen. Judith Schwank (D) District 11 | Support | Amends the Public School Code of 1949 to repeal the provision prohibiting public school teachers from wearing religious garb while in the performance of their duties. | Currently, Section 1112 prohibits a teacher from wearing any garb, mark, emblem or insignia that would indicate he or she is a member of or adherent to any religious order or sect while in the performance of their duties as a teacher. A teacher who violates this ban must be suspended from teaching for a term of one year, or permanently disqualified from teaching after multiple offenses. Furthermore, a public school director can be held criminally liable for failing to enforce this prohibition. | Referred to Education Senate Hearing https://www.pasenategop.com/news/ed-011023/ Second Consideration 01/11/2023 Bill passed out of committee Final passage, SB84 Jan. 18, 2023 (49-0) Referred to House Education 03/07/2023 Reported as committed from Education, June 13, 2023 First consideration, June 13, 2023 Laid on the table, June 13, 2023 Second Consideration October 18.2023 Signed in House 201 Y, 1 N October 31, 2023 Signed in Senate November 1, 2023 Presented to Governor November 1,2023 Approved by Governor November 6, 2023 |

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| SB523 HB609 | <p>This legislation would remove sex from PA birth certificates, but will still ensure that an individual's sex designation at birth continues to be reported through the separate U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth system.</p> | <p>Sen. Tim Kearney (D) District 26</p> <p>Rep. Benjamin Sanchez (D) District 153</p> | <p>Oppose</p> | <p>Removal of Sex from Birth Certificates</p> | <p>There are only two reproductive systems, there are only two sexes. Gender diversity is important to recognize within society especially to protect women from biological men from taking our spot and place. Just another way to erase women and trash our rights. This will also permit the further indoctrination of our children as well as mutilating their bodies.</p> | <p>SB523</p> <p>Referred to <u>HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</u>, March 15, 2023 [Senate]</p> <p>HB509</p> <p>Referred to <u>HEALTH</u>, March 21, 2023 [House]</p> |

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| <p>HB736 SB63</p> | <p>This bill will expand the offense of ethnic intimidation to include malicious intention against the actual or perceived ancestry, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity of another individual or group of individuals.</p> <p>SB63 protects anyone from the crime of hate-based intimidation based on race, color, religion, or national origin, and adds those same protections for hate-based intimidation based on ancestry, sex, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, intellectual disability, physical or sensory disability or behavioral or mental health.</p> | <p>Rep. Kevin Boyle (D) District 172</p> <p>Sen. Timothy Kearny (D) District 26</p> | <p>Oppose</p> | <p>Expanding Hate Crime Laws</p> | <p>A crime motivated by hatred towards these protected classes would be graded one degree higher than already specified in law. Mirrors SB63 “Bills like this encourage U.S. citizens to view themselves, not as members of our society, but as members of a protected group and carve out a special category. From the Heritage Foundation in 2019: Some claim that “racism is a white problem,” but 2019 statistics released by the FBI show that, unfortunately, no race has a monopoly on racist behavior. The FBI reported more than 7,100 hate crimes in 2019. Of the 6,406 known offenders, 52.5 percent were white, 23.9 percent were black, 10 percent Hispanic. Other races and ethnicities accounted for the rest. Their crimes ranged from rape and murder to robbery and vandalism. But while one such crime is too many, the total number of hate crimes reported annually is small relative to the size of the U.S. population. America guarantees its citizens equal justice under the law. From our founding, we have worked to achieve a justice system that punishes criminals and protects victims, regardless of their identities.”</p> <p>https://www.heritage.org/crime-and-justice/commentary/hate-crimes-should-they-be-prosecuted-more-aggressively</p> | <p>HB736</p> <p>Referred to <u>JUDICIARY</u>, March 28, 2023 [House]</p> <p>SB63</p> <p>Referred to <u>JUDICIARY</u>, Jan. 31, 2023 [Senate]</p> |

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| SB390 | This legislation would require a standardized form for requesting exemptions from vaccination requirements for school-age children, and to require consultation with a physician before exemptions may be approved | Sen. Judith Schwank (D) District 11 | Oppose | Immunization Information Formerly SB 393 2021-2022 | <p>This bill would require parents who decline some or all vaccines for religious reasons to submit to an “education session” on the risks and benefits of vaccines by a medical professional, use a new standard exemption form, get the exemption form certified by a medical professional.</p> <p>SB390 goes against the PA Constitution and would infringe on religious rights and parental rights. It would put us a step closer to losing our exemptions in PA.</p> | Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u> , Feb. 21, 2023 [Senate] |
| Sanctity of Life | | | | | | |
| HB753 | This legislation will require pain medication to be administered to a fetus prior to an abortion if the fetus is more than 15 weeks gestational age. Twelve weeks gestational age is the earliest point in development that medical experts believe a fetus can experience pain. There is no reason not to give the fetus the benefit of any | Rep. Timothy Bonner (R) District 17 | Oppose | Pain Control for the Unborn | <p>Looking at the big picture, this bill could actually increase abortion, though I understand the impulse. From the mother's perspective she may feel relieved that her child will not feel pain, therefore making it easier for her conscience to consider abortion. I am not against measures that work within the unconstitutional abortion scheme. For example, I support 24 hour waiting periods or ultrasound requirement, but all those seek to decrease the number of abortions, protecting women and saving</p> | Referred to HEALTH, March 28, 2023 [House] |

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| | question when it can feel pain particularly at a time when the existence of the innocent fetus is being terminated. | | | | babies. It seems like this measure would serve in the opposite way. I believe this bill should ban abortion at this stage when science shows the baby feels pain. | |
| HB1192 HB1193 HB1194 HB1195 | A package to allow for funding for this health care procedure by amending the parts of Pennsylvania law that restrict state funding for abortions, and subsequently providing funding to family planning providers, including those that provide abortions. | Rep. Mellissa Shusterman (D) District 157 | Oppose | Funding for Family Planning Providers | Abortion is not healthcare and hurts women. Majority of Americans oppose tax funded abortions. (Hyde Amendment) Americans should not be forced to support abortions beyond their beliefs. There should be the respect for conscience. | Referred to <u>HEALTH</u> , May 18, 2023 [House] |
| HB1784 HB1785 HB1786 HB1787 HB1788 HB1789 SB935 SB936 SB937 SB938 SB939 SB940 | A packet of bills to protect abortion within our state. The Pennsylvania Constitution contains no right to an abortion or to taxpayer funded abortions. (See breakdown of the bills under resources and information section of this tracker) | Rep. Mary Jo Daley (D) District 148 Rep. Melissa Shusterman (D) District 157 Sen. Amanda Cappelletti (D) District 17 has introduced bills in the Senate that mirror the House Abortion Protection Packet | Oppose | Abortion Protection Packet | HB1784, SB939 would protect healthcare records related to abortions from disclosure in Pennsylvania civil and criminal actions/investigations. HB1785, SB938 would instruct insurance companies to not take adverse action against healthcare providers who offer abortions to out-of-state residents. HB1786, SB935 would prohibit Pennsylvania courts from cooperating with out-of-state civil and criminal cases involving abortion services and prevent officials from other states from arresting individuals in Pennsylvania for abortion-related crimes. HB1787, SB940 would protect Pennsylvania's abortion providers from having their home addresses disclosed | Referred to <u>JUDICIARY</u> , Oct. 24, 2023 [House] HB1786 Passed November 15, 2023 117 Y, 86 N Referred to Senate Judiciary November 28, 2023 |

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| | | | | | <p>to the public. HB1788, SB936 would prohibit Pennsylvania courts from enforcing other states' judgments in cases involving the provision of abortion services. HB1789, SB937 would instruct our state's healthcare licensure boards to not take adverse action against abortion providers who offer abortions to out-of-state residents.</p> | |
| HB1118 | <p>Since the 1990s, Pennsylvania has provided taxpayer money to crisis pregnancy centers. In 2020-2021 alone, over \$7 million in state funds were allocated to these organizations. This legislation "rectifies this issue" by ending the practice of providing state funds to these organizations in the Fiscal Code.</p> | <p>Rep. Melissa Shusterman (D) District 157</p> | <p>Oppose</p> | <p>End Funding for Deceptive Organizations</p> | <p>Pregnancy Care Centers focus on alternatives to abortion, also known as life-affirming services, are designed to empower a woman to welcome her child into the world. They provide an expanded range of essential and professional care encompassing support services, medical care, and resources, usually at no cost to the women, men, and youth they serve. Personalized care is provided within a respectful, compassionate, and supportive environment by trained workers/individuals. In 2021, there are approximately 3,000 pregnancy center locations in the U.S. (counting medical mobile units as separate locations). Some pregnancy help organizations include medical services like ultrasound to confirm pregnancy, abortion pill reversal, and STI/STD testing. These are considered pregnancy help medical clinics.</p> | <p>Referred to <u>HEALTH</u>, May 5, 2023 [House]</p> |

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| HB1569 | This legislation establishes requirements for the final disposition of remains upon a fetal death. | Rep. Timothy Bonner (R) District 17 | Support | Final Disposition of Fetal Remains Act (Prior HB 118) | It would allow family members to receive the remains of their unborn child from a health care facility if they chose to exercise the option. This does not mandate the family pay for burial or cremation services but allows them the option to do so if they feel this would assist them in their grief process. | Referred to <u>HEALTH</u> , July 18, 2023 [House] |
| SB816 | This bill would allow people with a terminal disease to request a prescription for medicine that would end their life in a humane and dignified manner. This legislation is based on an Oregon law that has been in effect for several years and was upheld by the United States Supreme Court. | Sen. Lisa Boscola (D) District 18 | Oppose | End of Life Options Act | Legislation such as this is a slippery slope. As of March 2022, Oregon has stopped enforcing the in-state residency requirements and will expand access. Physician's assisted suicide preempts the possibility of a favorable change in the patient's health. It also might be so premature that we can erroneously make a permanent decision based on a temporary health situation. God, and God alone, is the author of life. We cannot take on the role of God and take life based on our inconsistent judgment. | Referred to <u>JUDICIARY</u> , June 23, 2023 [Senate] |
| HB803 | This dangerous amendment would wipe out our common sense protections for pregnant mothers and their preborn babies. | Rep. Danielle Otten (D) District 155 | Oppose | Reproductive Rights Amendment | This bill would remove parental consent, informed consent, or 24 hour waiting period for abortion. It would also end protections for preborn babies in the later stages of their mothers' pregnancies. | Referred to <u>HEALTH</u> , April 3, 2023 [House] |

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| HB924 | The message of the pro-abortion groups now wants Americans to accept abortion as essential health care for women. How can it be health care when it forcibly ends a life? | Rep. Jared Solomon (D) District 202 | Oppose | Women's Reproductive Healthcare | "Abortion treats no disease and carries a significant risk of harm to women and their future children. For example, abortion increases the risk of women delivering future infants prematurely. Abortion also increases women's risk of developing breast cancer and mental illness. These risks, and the risks of significant health implications, and even death, from abortion-related complications, are caused by first trimester abortions and increase in likelihood if the abortion is obtained during the second and third trimesters. Women and children deserve better than abortion." American College of Pediatrics https://acpeds.org/press/abortion-is-not-healthcare | Referred to <u>HEALTH</u> , April 17, 2023 [House] |
| HB320 | This legislation which will shift our focus on abortion and abortion law to focus on protecting the baby. This bill has been recognized nationally as the Heartbeat Bill. The Pennsylvania Legislature has previously considered changing the limit on abortion to 20 weeks. While this is a significant move in the right direction, the fact is that even at 20 weeks abortion stops a baby's beating heart. This legislation, like that which has been introduced in Congress, a beating heart will stop abortion. | Rep. Stephanie Borowicz (R) District 76 | Support | Heartbeat Bill | HB320 will require all physicians, before proceeding with an abortion, to determine whether the baby has a heartbeat. If the baby has a heartbeat, then the abortion cannot be performed. This will eliminate the need to a gestational age in legislation and will honor the science which shows that more than 90 percent of all pregnancies are viable in which a heartbeat is detected. This legislation will be another great rallying cry for us to save babies around this state and possibly around the nation. | Referred to <u>HEALTH</u> , March 13, 2023 [House] |

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| HB395 | A few years ago, the Superior Court ruled in the case of Commonwealth v. Haynes that a conviction for third degree murder of an unborn child somehow does not qualify as a “murder” under the law – and therefore the court ruled that a conviction for third degree murder of an unborn child could not serve as the basis for the imposition of a life sentence. | Rep. Rob Kauffman (R) District 89 | Support | Sentencing for Homicide of an Unborn Child | The court based its decision on a new reading of an old statute, reasoning that because the Commonwealth’s section of law addressing murder of an unborn child (Title 18, Section 2604) was not specifically mentioned in the sentencing provision for murder (Title 42, Section 9715), the sentencing provision did not apply. Murder of an unborn child is murder, regardless of the technical formalism of where this might be set forth in Title 18. For that reason, this bill amends Title 42 to clarify that murder includes murder of an unborn child. | Referred to <u>JUDICIARY</u> , March 14, 2023 [House] |
| HB543 | PAS now falls under the banner of “death with dignity.” Advances in medicine have allowed physicians to provide palliative care that can substantially lessen the suffering associated with terminal situations. God is the one who gives each person the gift of life, therefore, our lives belong to him. No one wants to suffer or see our loved ones suffer. | Rep. Carol Hill-Evans (D) District 95 | Oppose | Compassionate Aid in Dying | Pressure on terminally ill patients from family members, health professionals or even from the person themselves to “die with dignity” is the deliberate desecration of God's image. Patients requesting death will radically alter medicine. “In countries like the Netherlands and Belgium, where physician-assisted suicide has been legal for decades, the acceptance of doctor assisted death has led to euthanasia, the killing of patients who don’t request death. Government surveys in the Netherlands uncovered “thousands of cases” in which doctors | Referred to <u>HEALTH</u> , March 20, 2023 [House] |

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| | | | | | <p>“intentionally administered lethal injections to patients without a request...” This includes “children, the demented,” and “the mentally ill.”</p> <p>https://www.breakpoint.org/doctor-assisted-suicide-is-no-slippery-slope-its-a-moral-cliff/ 02/09/2022</p> | |
| HB428 | This bill will repeal the entirety of the present Abortion Control Act, replacing it with the Bodily Autonomy Act, a very thorough rewrite of existing law that undoes all of the unnecessary restrictions on access to care, adds affirmative protections for the right to choose, and continues to ensure that all procedures are done safely. | Rep. Kriste Howard (D) District 167 | Oppose | Ensuring Reproductive Rights | This bill would codify abortion rights in Pennsylvania. The Abortion Control Act has significantly reduced the number of abortions within our state. This would strip away the current limits on abortion include: 24 hour waiting period, parental consent, 24 week gestational limit as well as pushing taxpayer funding for abortions. | Referred to JUDICIARY, March 15, 2023 [House] |
| SB267 | "Urgent care centers have been growing in popularity and number in recent years. According to the Urgent Care Association of America, 7,357 urgent care centers operated nationwide in 2016 – jumping by 10 percent in just one year. From most locations in the Commonwealth, several urgent care centers can be found within a ten-mile radius, both in free-standing buildings and in strip malls and office | Sen. Michelle Brooks (R) District 50 | Support | Adding Urgent Care Centers to the Safe Haven Law | <p>This bill and similar laws are designed to decriminalize the leaving of an unharmed infant with a responsible caregiver, protecting infants from harm by providing a warm, secure haven for them when a parent is no longer able to care for a child.</p> <p>This legislation unanimously passed the Senate last session, but did not receive consideration in the House.</p> | <p>Referred to JUDICIARY 01/31/2023</p> <p>Second Consideration 03/08/23 Y- 11, N- 0</p> <p>Passed April 24, 2023 50 – Y, 0-N</p> <p>In the House Referred to JUDICIARY, April 25,2023</p> |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| | <p>complexes. Staffed by trained medical personnel, they would be another safe place that could accept newborns, broadening the list of currently designated caregivers, which already includes hospitals, police stations and fire stations. Safe Haven Laws, or "Baby Moses" Laws, have been passed in numerous states since the 1990s after a string of heart-breaking infanticide cases in the Midwest." Sen. Brooks</p> | | | | | |
| Education | | | | | | |
| HB216 | <p>The Save Women's Sports Act will protect opportunities for women and girls in athletics by ensuring women are not forced to compete against biological males playing on women's sports teams.</p> | <p>Rep. Barb Gleim (R) District 199</p> <p>Rep. Martina White (R) District 170</p> <p>Rep. Dawn Keefer (R) District 92</p> <p>Rep. Stephanie Borowicz, (R) District 76</p> | <p>Support</p> | <p>Protect Women's Sports Act (HB 972, 2021-2022)</p> | <p>The opportunity for girls to compete on a level playing field must be protected. Title IX was designed to stop discrimination and create equal athletic opportunities for women. However, allowing biological males to compete in girls' sports reverses nearly 50 years of advancement for women. There are "inherent differences" between men and women," and these differences "remain cause for celebration, but not for denigration of the members of either sex or for artificial constraints on an individual's opportunity." <i>United States v. Virginia</i>, 518 U.S. 515, 533 (1996). These "inherent differences" range from hormonal differences to physiological differences. Having separate biologically-specific teams, which Title IX protects, furthers efforts</p> | <p>Referred to EDUCATION, March 8, 2023 [House]</p> |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| | | | | | to promote women's equality. Biologically-specific teams accomplish this by providing opportunities for female athletes to demonstrate their skill, strength, and athletic abilities while also providing them with opportunities to obtain recognition and accolades, college scholarships, and the numerous other long-term benefits that flow from success in athletic endeavors. | |
| HB2080 | <p>The utilization of technology has become commonplace in our schools over the past few years. My legislation aims to incorporate technological advancements with existing State Academic Standards to provide students with a more immersive learning experience.</p> <p>Specifically, this legislation would require such instruction to include an ultrasound video showing development of vital organs at specified gestational ages, as well as a computer-generated interactive rendering of the weekly stages of human development, beginning with fertilization.</p> | Rep. Joseph Hamm (R) District 84 | Support | Early Human Life Development Education Bill | It is important to ensure that our students are learning medically and scientifically accurate information about the full scope of human development from its earliest stages. It is my hope that this legislation equips students with a deeper understanding of human development, reproduction, pregnancy, and life | Referred to HEALTH , March 5, 2024 [House] |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| HB93 | Sex trafficking is a growing epidemic in our society and exists because our culture drives the normalization of sex and pornography. The fastest-growing form of trafficking today is familial trafficking. The predator is a familiar figure and the victim functions as a normal human while being exploited. The predator uses the victim's trust as a silencing mechanism and enforces force, fraud, and coercion, manipulating the victim for sex. This bill will allow our state's public institutions of higher education to partner with nonprofit organizations to provide their first-years students with an opportunity to attend a series of in-depth prevention and education programs regarding sex trafficking & exploitation. | Rep. Robert Leadbeter (R) District 109 | Support | Anti-Human Trafficking Prevention in Higher Education | Specifically, this legislation will direct public institutions of higher education to provide all first-year students with the opportunity to attend one of three on-campus, voluntary sex trafficking and exploitation prevention and education programs. It will direct program materials relating to the programs to be provided at no cost, with the program provider being solely responsible for incurring all costs associated with implementing the programs and related materials. | Referred to EDUCATION , March 7, 2023 [House] |
| HB1804 | This bill will prohibit a school entity from allowing a student to access a mental health digital platform or facilitate access to the platform without receiving specific written permission from the parent or legal guardian of the student. Where children are | Rep. Stephenie Scialabba (R) District 12 | Support | Parental Notification and Consent for Student Access and Use of a Mental Health Services Digital Platform | In addition, school entities will be required to provide a clear and detailed description of the platform in a manner that provides a meaningful understanding of the platform's practices, mission and structure, including the platform's teachings, approach and philosophies, lessons, available materials, activities and licenses. | Referred to EDUCATION , Oct. 31, 2023 [House] |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| | involved, parents have a responsibility to ensure their safety and well-being. By being notified and provided detailed information about mental health digital platforms, including privacy policies and the types of information that children can access and share, allows parents to determine if this medium is appropriate for their child. | | | | Parents will be permitted to be present with the student in an authorized school setting while the student accesses and uses the mental health services digital platform on school premises, unless good cause for the exclusion of the parent or legal guardian is documented by the governing board of the school entity. | |
| SB926 | Sexually explicit books (child porn) should not be available to school age children. This is not a free speech issue but a parental rights. A true book ban would mean they could never be purchased. | Sen. Amanda Cappelletti (D) District 17 | Oppose | Prohibiting Book Bans in Pennsylvania's Libraries | It's not about the what, it's about where. Appropriate locations for books should be determined by age. Some of the books in question, "Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe and "All Boys Aren't Blue" by George M. Johnson, have topped most-challenged book lists for the nation and the state and were brought up at the hearing by Louisiana Sen. John Kennedy, who read excerpts from the books at a recent Senate hearing. | Referred to EDUCATION, Oct. 3, 2023 [Senate] |
| HB1501 | This bill would require new smart phones and tablets activated in the Commonwealth to have a filter enabled that would protect children from finding harmful material online. There have been numerous studies performed that have shown the harmful effects | Rep. Jim Gregory (R) District 80 | Support | Smart device filter for minors | Smart phone and tablet manufacturers already have the technology to filter out materials that are deemed harmful. This legislation would simply require those filters to be switched "on" at the time of activation. These filters can easily be disabled by adults and would not infringe on any rights of the consumer. | Referred to <u>CONSUMER PROTECTION, TECHNOLOGY AND UTILITIES</u> , June 23, 2023 [House] |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| | that pornographic material has on children. Accessing this material at such a vulnerable age has been shown to have a clear detriment to children with a lasting impact as they continue through puberty and into their adult lives. It is clear that we must act to better protect our children from the harm that comes from accessing explicit material at an early age. | | | | Utah was the first state to pass this landmark legislation in 2021. Their legislation included a section that required at least five other states to enact similar legislation before the law became effective. A handful of other states have also introduced legislation to implement this important protection for children. I propose that Pennsylvania step up and pass similar protections. | |
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| HB1269 SB853 | On April 23, 2022, the final form amendments to Chapter 49 regulations, which provide for certification of teachers and other professional personnel, were approved and became effective. The regulations included a new term not in the Public School Code of 1949, "culturally relevant and sustaining education," which is defined as: Education that ensures equity for all students and | Rep. Barb Gleim (R) District 133 Sen. Michelle Brooks (R) District 50 | Support | Abrogation of Chapter 49 Regulations Related to Culturally Relevant and Sustaining Education ("CR-SE") Culturally-Relevant and Sustaining Education | In November 2022, the Department of Education released program framework guidelines outside the regulatory process which developed CR-SE into new standards to be integrated into educator training. For example, guidelines include requirements that require professional educators to: Know and acknowledge that biases exist in the educational system. Recognize schools' history of inequities and institutional biases and their consequences. Disrupt harmful institutional practices, policies, and norms by advocating and engaging in efforts to rewrite policies, change | HB1269 Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u> , May 31, 2023 [House] https://mail.google.com/mail/u/3/#inbox/KtbxLthdkDDdwJNQCSTxwRBtBGZGjtPXlq SB853 Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u> , June 26, 2023 [Senate] |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| | <p>seeks to eliminate systemic institutional racial and cultural barriers that inhibit the success of all students in this Commonwealth—particularly those who have been historically underrepresented. Culturally relevant and sustaining education encompasses skills for educators including, but not limited to, approaches to mental wellness, trauma-informed approaches to instruction, technological and virtual engagement, cultural awareness and emerging factors that inhibit equitable access for all students in this Commonwealth.</p> | | | | <p>practices, and raise awareness. Believe and acknowledge that microaggressions are real and take steps to educate themselves about the subtle and obvious ways in they are used to harm and invalidate the existence of others. These new guidelines for teaching diverse classrooms will indoctrinate our teachers and, by extension, our students about race instead of educating them about its complexities. These guidelines impose simple answers to our hardest questions. Reasonable people differ about the role structural racism plays in schools—but these guidelines will prevent critical conversations about race. Continuing professional development programs are required to integrate the CR-SE competencies no later than the 2023-24 academic year. Educator preparation and induction programs must integrate CR-SE competencies no later than the 2024-25 academic year.</p> | |
| HB932 | <p>It is crucial that parents and legal guardians have the ability to determine the upbringing, education, care, and welfare of their children. Currently Pennsylvania does not have a state statute that explicitly lists parental rights as fundamental rights. With the passing of this legislation, Pennsylvania would join 12 other states by</p> | Rep. Marla Brown (R) District 09 | Support | Parental Bill of Rights | <p>It is important to note that nothing in this legislation will authorize a parent or guardian to engage in conduct that is unlawful, or to abuse or neglect their child in violation of current laws. Looking at recent events it is evident that there is a need for this type of legislation now more than ever. We have seen parents alienated from decisions that are occurring in the classroom. Parents are constantly judged and labeled when making decisions regarding what they feel is best for their children's health care. It</p> | Referred to <u>CHILDREN AND YOUTH</u> , April 17, 2023 [House] |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| | recognizing these rights in statute. This bill clarifies that the Commonwealth nor any of its political subdivisions have the ability to infringe upon the fundamental rights established within the legislation. | | | | is time to give the power back to parents and establish that parental rights are fundamental rights. This legislation needs to be passed now, so that parents have the legal protections they need when making decisions on how their children should be raised. When it comes to raising their children, parents need to be making the decisions, not the government. | |
| HB300 | The Fairness Act has been introduced in Pennsylvania to prohibit discrimination in our state based on sex, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. This bill will keep those who identify as LGBTQ+ from being denied housing, education, or access to public accommodations. | Rep. Malcom Kenyatta (D) District 181 | Oppose | Fairness Act | <p>HB300 will jeopardize the safety and opportunities for Pennsylvania female athletes. Individual male born athletes should not be eligible to participate on an athletic team that is exclusively for females.</p> <p>Are you okay with a teenage male showering next to your teenage daughter? Yes or No? Women have fought long and hard to gain status. Now, males self-identifying as women are celebrated in sports competitions; they steal women-owned business grants, and they invade female privacy in locker rooms and shelters. This bill is dangerous and violates student privacy and safety.</p> <p>The religious liberty of people who hold conservative and biblical views about marriage and sexuality would be in jeopardy should this bill pass.</p> | <p>Referred to <u>JUDICIARY</u>, April 17, 2023 [House]</p> <p>Scheduled to run in Judiciary April 24, 9:30am</p> <p>First Consideration April 24, 2023 12-Y, 9-N</p> <p>Second Consideration April 26, 2023</p> <p>Referred to Appropriations April 26, 2023</p> <p>Full House Vote as early as May 1, 2023</p> <p>Passed May 2, 2023 Y – 102, N-98</p> |

| <i>Bill Number</i> | <i>Summary</i> | <i>Sponsor</i> | <i>CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position)</i> | <i>Issue</i> | <i>Resources/Information</i> | <i>Status/Action</i> |
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| SB458 HB1372 | <p>Parents and the public should be able to easily review the curriculum that will be taught to children. Currently, there is no standardized, simple, and user-friendly way for parents or the public to review this information. In the twenty-first century, there is no reason parents and the public should be able to access this information online at their convenience.</p> | <p>Sen. Jarrett Coleman (R) District 16</p> <p>Rep. Kristin Marcel (R) District 178</p> | <p>Support</p> | <p>Curriculum Transparency</p> | <p>This legislation will require public school districts to publish the actual curriculum for each grade and subject area on their websites so the public can review the lessons and textbooks. SB458 is vital to ensure that parents and our communities remain informed and in the driver's seat when it comes to their children's education. HB1372 is a companion bill to Sen. Coleman's SB458. It will require that proposed changes to curriculum first be presented at a school board meeting, and then considered for approval at a separate school board meeting. It will also require that a school entity post on its website the following information related to curriculum and instructional materials: a link or title for each primary resource used; and a course syllabus or summary of each instructional course, and the state academic standards for each course. This legislation will further guarantee that parents or guardians have access to information about the curriculum, including academic standards to be achieved, instructional materials and assessment techniques, as required by the Pennsylvania Code.</p> | <p>Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u>, March 14, 2023 [Senate]</p> <p>Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u>, June 12, 2023 [House]</p> |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| HB209 | This legislation will remove an exemption currently allowing school libraries to possess and exhibit any legally obscene, even highly sexual content. | Rep. Barb Gleim (R) District 199 | Support | Removing Obscene Material from Our School Libraries (prior HB 2815) | Under our current criminal law, no one may publicly exhibit or provide to a minor legally obscene materials. This can include materials which are so shocking as to qualify as sexual bestiality, sadomasochistic abuse, and patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual activity. But while this prohibition applies generally across the Commonwealth, our current law also includes a puzzling exemption allowing any library in the state not only to possess these very same materials, but also to exhibit them and to make them available to minors. This bill will remove this exemption for primary and secondary school libraries. To be clear, current law does not prohibit all sexual content whatsoever - only obscene content, as that label has developed under our Constitution. Current law also does not prohibit subject matter which, when taken as a whole, has serious literary, artistic, political, educational or scientific value. | Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u> , March 8, 2023 [House] |
| HB138 | If an individual entitled to bring a civil cause of action arising from gender affirmation treatment is a minor at the time the cause of action accrues, this | Rep. Paul Schemel (R) District 90 | Support | Gender Affirmation Therapy Statute of Limitations | The recent and rapid expansion of gender transition services offered to minors raises questions concerning both the long-term impact of chemical and surgical treatments falling under the general category of affirmation therapy and the adequacy of consent for such treatments by minor patients. | Referred to <u>JUDICIARY</u> , March 8, 2023 [House] |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| | <p>legislation will permit that individual to file a cause of action prior to his or her 30th birthday.</p> <p>Our laws have long recognized that children are incapable of independently consenting to medical treatments and making other significant and life-altering decisions that require a certain degree of life experience and maturity.</p> | | | | <p>The sole intent of this proposed legislation is to provide affected individuals additional time to bring a claim after they have reached the age of majority. This legislation will extend the statute of limitations for civil actions brought by individuals who underwent gender affirmation treatment as minors. Under current law, any plaintiff aggrieved by a medical procedure during his or her minority, including gender affirmation surgery, must file the cause of action prior to reaching 20 years of age. This extremely short window of time often proves inadequate and unreasonably restrictive for the children who underwent these procedures and only begin to suffer permanent physical and psychological harm years later in adulthood. Indeed, a growing body of research suggests that many individuals who undergo gender affirmation treatments as minors do not begin to experience complications or regret until their late 20s or early 30s; often, as a direct result of the permanent loss of fertility, sexual function, and the ability to form intimate relationships.</p> | |
| HB211 | <p>For education to create citizens capable of self-government, students need to engage with a variety of viewpoints on challenging issues led by teachers who understand that there is greater value in promoting independent thinking than in advancing</p> | <p>Rep. Barb Gleim (R) District 199</p> | <p>Support</p> | <p>The Honesty in Teaching Act (prior HB 2521, 2021-2022)</p> | <p>This legislation will: Re-affirm the Civil Rights Act of Title IV and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Establish guidelines for the PA Department of Education to assist teachers when teaching challenging and controversial issues. Gives parents and school entities a clear path for</p> | <p>Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u>, March 8, 2023 [House]</p> |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| | their own beliefs. Teachers should be prepared to help students become discerning consumers of information, to evaluate and analyze information, to question and verify the credibility of its source, and to make their own reasoned judgments supported by evidence. | | | | complaints, investigation, and transparency when a civil rights violation is alleged to have occurred, and a process to remedy when a violation is confirmed upon investigation, which includes requiring a school entity notify parents of the civil rights violation. | |
| SB285 HB1097 | "September 11, 2001, a day when our country coalesced bravely in the face of terrorism, is undoubtedly one of the defining moments of contemporary U.S. and world history. Yet, despite the tremendous impact 9/11 has had on the lives of the American people, Pennsylvania's state academic standards for History and Civics and Government do not make any mention of these terrorist attacks whatsoever. Given the continuing impact of that day on lives of all Americans and on subsequent world events, it is of the utmost importance that our students grow up | Sen. Kristen Phillips-Hill (R) District 28 Rep. Jim Haddock (D) District | Support | 9/11 Model Curriculum | This legislation will require the PDE to create a model curriculum for instruction in the events and significance of 9/11 within 12 months. PDE will also be required to make the model curriculum and other available resources regarding 9/11 available on its publicly accessible website for school entities. | SB285 Referred to EDUCATION, Jan. 31, 2023 HB1097 Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u> , May 5, 2023 [House] First consideration, May 22, 2023 Laid on the table, May 22, 2023 Removed from the table, May 23, 2023 Second consideration, May 24, 2023 Re-committed to Appropriations, May 24, 2023 Re-report as committed June 5, 2023 June 6 2023 Passed Y94, N88, 21 Unknown Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u> , June 6, 2023 [Senate] |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| | with an adequate understanding of this time our history." Sen. Phillip-Hill | | | | | |
| SB340 | Openness and transparency should be promoted in all facets of our taxpayer funded government entities and that especially includes local schools. This bill will allow parents to play a much more active role in the oversight of what their children are taught. | Sen. Doug Mastriano (R) District 33 | Support | Improving Curriculum Transparency in K-12 Schools | SB340 requires a school entity to post on a publicly accessible website an internet link or title from every textbook used, a course syllabus, and the state academic standards for each instructional course offered. Additionally, the information must be updated by the school entity no later than 30 days after it is revised. School entities will not be required to violate any copy write, trademark or other intellectual property rights. By having easy access to an online link that is periodically updated, time-strapped parents will be better informed of what their children are learning. Openness and transparency should be promoted in all facets of our taxpayer funded government entities and that especially includes local schools. | Referred to EDUCATION, Feb. 10, 2023 [Senate] Report as amended from Education 9/19/2023 1 st Consideration 9/19/2023 2 nd Consideration October 4, 2023 Re-referred to Appropriations 10/4/2023 Passed October 24, 2023 28 Y, 22 N Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u> , Oct. 25, 2023 [House] |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| SB444 | This bill would provide parents with the legal protection they need when overreaching bureaucrats attempt to overrule their voice | Sen. Doug Mastriano (R) District 33 | Support | Parental Rights Protection | “Senate Bill 444 will make it clear that state government and its political subdivisions – including school districts – may not infringe on the fundamental rights of parents to direct the upbringing, education, health care and mental health of their children. Similar parental rights provisions already exist in 15 other states. As activists continue to invade academia with their divisive politics, parents need these tools to help them stand up and fight for their sons and daughters. Parental rights must be fortified in Pennsylvania.” Sen Mastriano | Referred to STATE GOVERNMENT, March 28, 2023 |
| SB353 | This legislation will require the posting of the preamble to the Pennsylvania Constitution (“We, the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and humbly invoking His guidance, do ordain and establish this Constitution.”) in the entrance of every school building where state funding is provided to the district or institution of higher education. | Sen. Chris Dush (R) District #25 | Support | Displaying the Preamble of the Constitution of Pennsylvania in Schools | The Declaration is foundational to the form of government “the people” chose to write, administer and interpret the law while reserving to themselves the "supreme power" to "change the form of government" through our Constitutions. This will be a daily reminder to students preparing to take their place in this republic, of the power and responsibility they will assume. | Referred to EDUCATION, Feb. 10, 2023 [Senate] 2 nd Consideration May 10, 2023 Re-referred to Appropriations May 10, 2023, October 23, 2023 Passed October 24, 2023 42 Y, 8 N Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u> , Oct. 25, 2023 [House] |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| HB1727 | Participating in school clubs and organizations can be a valuable experience for students. These extracurricular activities provide opportunities for students to develop new skills, build relationships with peers, and explore their interests. However, it is important for parents to be notified and provide consent for their child to join a school organization or club to ensure that they are aware of their child's activities outside of the classroom. | Rep. Stephenie Scialabba (R) District 12 | Support | Parental Notification and Consent for Student Participation in School-Related Clubs and Organizations | By knowing what clubs and organizations their child is involved in, parents can better support their child's interests and be more involved in their child's education. This can include attending events or meetings, providing transportation, or even volunteering to assist with the organization or club. Requiring parental notice can help ensure the safety of students. School organizations and clubs often involve travel, fundraising, and other activities that may require parental consent or supervision. By requiring parental notice, schools can ensure that parents are aware of these activities and can provide appropriate consent or supervision. | Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u> , Sept. 29, 2023 [House] |
| HB93 | Sex trafficking is a growing epidemic in our society and exists because our culture drives the normalization of sex and pornography. The fastest-growing form of trafficking today is familial trafficking. The predator is a familiar figure and the victim functions as a normal human while being exploited. The predator uses the victim's trust as a silencing mechanism and enforces force, fraud, and coercion, manipulating the | Rep. Robert Leadbetter (R) District 109 | Support | Anti-Human Trafficking Prevention in Higher Education | This legislation that will allow our Commonwealth's public institutions of higher education to partner with nonprofit organizations to provide their first-years students with an opportunity to attend a series of in-depth prevention and education programs regarding sex trafficking and exploitation. Specifically, HB93 will direct public institutions of higher education to provide all first-year students with the opportunity to attend one of three on-campus, voluntary sex trafficking and exploitation prevention and education programs. It will direct program materials relating to the programs to be provided at no cost, | Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u> , March 7, 2023 [House] |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| | victim for sex. | | | | with the program provider being solely responsible for incurring all costs associated with implementing the programs and related materials. | |
| HB514 | Parents are familiar with the challenges of finding an educational program that fits their unique needs. 6 states have empowered parents and guardians to equip their children with the tools they need to succeed by offering education savings accounts that fund much needed support services. Through this legislation we can join the charge to support students who need it. | Rep. Bill Neilson (D) District 174 | Support | Education Savings Accounts (formerly HB1134) | This legislation would allow eligible students to enroll in an empowerment scholarship account that parents or guardians can use for specific approved education-related expenses, including private school tuition, tutoring, online courses, costs associated with college entrance exams, and curriculum. These accounts would deposit 90 percent of the per-pupil spending of the student's home district. | Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u> , March 17, 2023 [House] |
| SB7 | This bill reintroduces Senate Bill 1277 from last session to provide parents with the ability to be fully aware of the mature, sexual content their child may be provided in school and the ability to deny their own child access to such content should the parent believe it is | Sen. Ryan Aument (R) District 37 | Support | Parental Control of Student Exposure to Sexually Explicit Content in Schools | Parents would then have the opportunity to review the materials and make the decision of whether to allow their children to be provided that coursework or prevent their child from viewing that particular book from the library through an opt-in form. If the parent decides to not opt-in their child for coursework that includes concerning content, the child will be provided with a non-explicit alternative. It is important to note that the opt-in approach is a change from Senate Bill 1277, which would have required | Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u> , April 20, 2023 [Senate] Re-referred to Appropriations October 23, 2023 Passed October 24, 221 023 29 Y 21 N Moves to the House |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| | inappropriate. SB7 would require schools to identify sexually explicit content in school curriculum, materials, and books and notify parents that their child’s coursework includes such content or that a book their child wishes to view in the school library contains explicit content. | | | | parents to opt their children <i>out</i> of such material. However, after receiving feedback from parents, I decided that an opt-in approach is more appropriate. The opt-in approach is currently utilized by a school within my district where the superintendent explained, “the use of the opt-in form was a way to ensure that we were honoring parent rights related to the upbringing and education of their children.” | Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u> , Oct. 25, 2023 [House] |

Sexual Exploitation

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| HB394 | Re-introducing a bill (former HB 1096) that will reform the venue in which human trafficking lawsuits may be brought – making it easier for human trafficking victims to bring lawsuits against their offenders. | Rep. Rob Kauffman (R) District 89 | Support | Reforming Venue for Human Trafficking | The Commonwealth’s comprehensive human trafficking protections include a provision specifically authorizing civil lawsuits to be brought by victims against any person who participates in the human trafficking of the victim, as well as against those who recruit, profit or maintain the victim in the sex trade, or who abuse or otherwise physically harm victims. Some of those cases may be brought in the county where the victim resides, while others may also be filed in a county where the human trafficking violations occurred. This bill will allow all of these lawsuits to be brought <u>either</u> where the victim resides <u>or</u> where the violations | Referred to <u>JUDICIARY</u> , March 14, 2023 [House] Reported as committed from JUDICARY, April 21, 2023 First Consideration, April 21,2023 Laid on table, April 21, 2023 Passed the committee unanimously, goes before the full House for consideration 2023-05-24 / Intro Removed from table June 6, 2023 Final Passage Y94, N88, 21Unknown |
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| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| | | | | | occurred. | June 6, 2023 Referred to Senate Judiciary June 3, 2023 |
| <u>SB22</u> | This legislation protects minors & their mental health from social media. The data shows far too many minors are struggling with mental health, a fact laid bare during the COVID pandemic, and that social media is a contributing factor. The use of social media by teenagers is near universal. According to data collected by Pew in 2022, 95% of teens reported using YouTube and 67% of teens have used TikTok. A 2018 study conducted by Pew found that 45% of teens reported feeling overwhelmed by the drama on social media and 26% reported feeling worse about their own lives. A recent Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) report found that 16% of high school students reported being electronically bullied in 2021 and, between 2011-2021, nearly 60% of | Sen. Vincent Hughes (D) District 7 Sen. Kristin Phillips Hill (R) District 12 | Support | Social Media Protections for Minors | Recently, Bucks County filed a civil lawsuit against the companies behind TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat and YouTube alleging their platforms have worsened anxiety and depression among young people. Statistics from Bucks County schools from a 2022 survey found that 34% of the area's school-aged youth were at risk for moderate to severe depression and more than 25% of students reported a history of suicidal ideation. This legislation is based off bills in other states, such as Connecticut and Ohio, as well as the Clean Slate for Kids Online Act introduced in the United States Senate. Our proposed legislation would: Require consent from a parent or legal guardian for anyone under 16 to open a social media account; notify parents or legal guardians if a child under 16 opens a social media account without proper consent; prohibit data mining for any user under 18; allow individuals to request deletion of information collected or | 1 st Consideration September 19, 2023 2nd consideration, Oct. 3, 2023 [Senate] |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| | female students experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness while 10% of female students reported attempting suicide | | | | obtained while the individual was under 18; and create a cause of action for parents or legal guardians of minors against social media companies for harm to their children. | |
| HB1660 | Legislation to assist law enforcement in combatting child sex abuse. This bill would authorize any individual to assume the identity of a minor for the purpose of catching predators who solicit sex from minors over the internet. | Rep. Jim Gregory (R) District 30 | Oppose | Unlawful Contact with a Minor | At a time when our law enforcement agencies are suffering from significant staffing shortages and retention issues, law enforcement officers are often unable to devote the time and resources needed to catch the multitude of predators who prowl the internet for vulnerable children. By allowing any individual to pose as a minor for | Referred to <u>JUDICIARY</u> , Sept. 7, 2023 [House] |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| | | | | | the purpose of enforcing the unlawful contact with a minor statute, these predators may be less likely to target and prey on children. | |
| HR247 | Human trafficking endangers the lives of millions of people around the world through domestic and transnational trafficking networks. It is a \$150 billion global industry and one of the fastest growing criminal activities in the world. | Rep. Kristin Marcell (R) District 178 | Support | Recognizing January 2024 as "National Human Trafficking Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania | Human trafficking is a systematic problem occurring in every county in the Commonwealth and all over the United States. The Joint State Government Commission of the Commonwealth has reported that Pennsylvania is a source and destination for human trafficking victims. Although strides have been made to bring awareness to the issue, more needs to be done to combat the perpetrators. It is our responsibility, morally and constitutionally, to protect the victims of this insidious crime. | Referred to <u>JUDICIARY</u> , Oct. 24, 2023 [House] |
| SB890 | This legislation would give victims of human trafficking access to an affirmative defense for any crimes committed as a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking. | Sen. Chris Dush (R) District 25 | Support | Affirmative Defense for Victims of Human Trafficking | Currently there is an affirmative defense in Pennsylvania law where someone cannot be charged with prostitution if that act is committed as a direct result of their status as a victim of human trafficking. We would like to see this exemption extended to cover victims of human trafficking who are forced to commit other criminal offenses, even those who are so deep in desperation that they have been reduced to a primal response that results in the death of their | Referred to <u>JUDICIARY</u> , Aug. 16, 2023 [Senate] |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| | | | | | abuser. | |
| HB1659 | This legislation will provide parents with the ability to be fully aware of the mature, sexual content their child may be provided in school and the ability to deny their own child access to such content should the parent believe it is inappropriate. Similar legislation has been authored by Senator Ryan Aument as SB7 . | Rep. Russ Diamond (R) District 102 | Support | Parental Choice/Sexually Explicit Content in Schools | This bill would require schools to identify sexually explicit content in school curriculum, materials, and books and notify parents that their child's coursework includes such content or that a book their child wishes to view in the school library contains explicit content. Parents would then have the opportunity to review the materials and make the decision of whether to allow their children to be provided that coursework or prevent their child from viewing that particular book from the library through an opt-in form. If the parent decides to not opt-in their child for coursework that includes concerning content, the child will be provided with a non-explicit alternative. | Referred to <u>EDUCATION</u> , Sept. 5, 2023 [House] |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| SB515 | This legislation to help protect one of Pennsylvania's most vulnerable populations: children at risk of sexual abuse, exploitation, and victimization in sex-trafficking. | Sen. Michelle Brooks (R) District | Support | RESCUE (Reporting Evidence of Sexual Crimes and Underage Exploitation) Bill | The treatment of underage children for sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, abortions, or contraception are to be reported to law enforcement or child protective services, but checks by and inquiries to the Department of Health indicate these mandated notifications cannot be verified. Measures achieving certainty are needed and this bill aims to provide this. Violations of these inspections by Department of Health inspectors or health care providers must be referred to the Pennsylvania State Police and Medical Licensing Board for investigation and potential criminal penalties and suspensions. | Referred to <u>HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</u> , March 15, 2023 [Senate] |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| SB643 | <p>This bill will ban drag shows on public property or in areas that can be seen by minors.</p> <p>In Pennsylvania, there has been an alarming uptick in drag performances that appeal to children. In April 2022, parents at a school district in Lancaster were shocked to learn about after-school X-rated drag shows occurring on school property. In October 2022, a sexually charged drag show for audience members as young as 13 was performed at the Rainbow Room in Bucks County.</p> | Sen. Doug Mastriano (R) District 33 | Support | Classifying Drag Performances as Adult-Oriented Business | <p>This legislation will classify drag shows as an “adult-oriented business” under Title 68. As an adult oriented business, commonsense limits would have to be considered that protect minors. This includes location of performance, age of the intended audience, etc.</p> <p>“It is disheartening that legislation like this is needed. Parents have a right to know their children are not being exposed to sexually charged content in a public forum. Drag shows that appeal to minors on school property, libraries, and other public places should not be accepted in any functioning society. My legislation will ensure that this is no longer occurs in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.” Sen Mastriano</p> | Referred to JUDICIARY , April 20, 2023 [Senate] |
| National Sovereignty | | | | | | |
| HB700 | <p>A joint resolution to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to end no-excuse mail-in voting. Simply put, this constitutional amendment will revert our elections back to</p> | Rep. Russ Diamond (R) District 102 | Support | Repeal No-Excuse Mail-in Voting by Constitutional Amendment | <p>The question of whether no-excuse mail-in voting under Act 77 is constitutional has been answered affirmatively by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Therefore, making in-person voting and the traditional absentee voting process the exclusive methods of voting in Pennsylvania can be</p> | Referred to JUDICIARY , March 14, 2023 [House] |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| | what they were prior to Act 77 of 2019 by mandating in-person voting, with the exception of absentee voting as already provided for in Article VII. | | | | achieved by amending our constitution's language. | |
| SB516 | <p>This legislation will create flexibility for poll watchers and allow them to perform their duties on Election Day. Poll watchers safeguard Pennsylvania's elections and help ensure that election law is strictly adhered to.</p> <p>Last session, this legislation passed the Senate and House but was vetoed by Governor Wolf.</p> | Sen. Doug Mastriano (R) District 33 | Support | Poll Worker Protection Act | Under this bill, all registered voters of Pennsylvania will be eligible to be a poll watcher in any precinct in the state. Watchers will not be required to be a resident of the county, municipality, or precinct in which they are appointed. Candidates for office will be able to appoint two poll watchers per precinct. Additionally, each political party will have the opportunity to appoint three watchers per precinct and will also levy penalties on any election officials who block, impede, or otherwise intimidate a poll watcher while performing in his or her official duties on Election Day and will ensure that individuals are allowed to watch the pre-canvassing of ballots and permitted to have a clear line of sight to view and hear the proceedings at a distance of six feet or less. | Referred to <u>STATE GOVERNMENT</u> , March 15, 2023 [Senate] |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| SB401 | This bill would change Pennsylvania's voting system so that all elections would be conducted entirely by mail. Pre-postage attached ballots would be mailed out before Election Day. Voters would be given several days to determine who they would like to vote for and once the decision is made, mark their ballots, and place it into the mail. Pre-cavassing of the ballots up to seven days before Election Day and require ballot drop boxes be placed in every municipality building around the state. | Sen. Wayne Fontana (D) District 42 | Oppose | Mail-in Ballots | <p>SB401 would require ballot drop boxes be placed in every municipality building around the state to make voting even more assessable to all, all elections would be conducted entirely by mail. Our constitution requires voters to appear at polling places on Election Day, unless they are allowed to use absentee voting. Drop boxes are not secure, lending to election fraud as seen through the research presented in 2,000 Mules. This bill will not help to secure Pennsylvania elections.</p> <p>Election fraud is real, and therefore needs careful and intentional legislation to ensure confidence and integrity with the process. The voting system should preserve the integrity of each ballot.</p> | Referred to <u>STATE GOVERNMENT</u> , March 15, 2023 [Senate] |
| HB554 | Legislation amending the Pennsylvania Constitution to require voters to provide valid identification in order to vote in an election. | Rep. David Zimmerman (R) District 99 | Support | Constitutional Amendment: Providing for Voter Identification | The premise behind voter ID laws to ensure that individuals are not misrepresenting themselves when voting and thus potentially negating the votes of others. Voter ID laws can also serve to increase public confidence in the election process. | Referred to <u>STATE GOVERNMENT</u> , March 20, 2023 [House] |

| Bill Number | Summary | Sponsor | CWA Position (Support, Oppose, No Position) | Issue | Resources/Information | Status/Action |
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| SB1 | <p>This legislation amends the Pennsylvania Constitution to require voters to provide valid identification in order to vote in an election. This measure was approved last session by the House and Senate. If passed again this session, it would place a proposed amendment on the ballot asking voters if identification should be required at each election. This proposal would help to enhance election integrity and increase voter confidence. It would also add another layer of security to our elections.</p> | Sen. Dan Laughlin (R) District 49 | Support | Constitutional Amendment: Providing for Voter Identification | In 2021, Franklin & Marshall College conducted a poll and found that a large majority of Pennsylvania voters support strengthening the state's voter ID requirements. According to the poll, 74% of respondents agree voters should be required to show ID at the polls. Missouri, Wyoming, Montana and Arkansas are among a few states that have recently enacted photo ID requirements. Pennsylvania would be among several other states to have a Voter ID requirement in the constitution, as Arkansas and North Carolina have both previously approved ballot measures to amend their state constitution to require photo voter identification. | <p>Re-reported as committed, April 21, 2023 [House] Re-reported as committed from APPROPRIATIONS, May 22, 2023 Third consideration and final passage, May 22, 2023 145 Y, 56 N</p> |