

# INFLUENCER

## MONTHLY



July 2024

A publication prepared exclusively for CWA leaders, members, and friends dedicated to impacting the culture for Christ through both prayer and action.

## Independence Day, a Right and a Duty

Independence Day. As I was thinking about the annual celebration of our country's independence from England, I was struck by something that had not previously occurred to me in just this way. As I read the following words of The Declaration of Independence penned by Thomas Jefferson:

“But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.”

I was struck by the similarity to the words spoken by James in James 4:12,

“So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.”

These men, these Founding Fathers, knew what the right thing was to do. It was not always popular, and it cost each of them dearly - reputation, health, fortune, family. They, however, knew the right thing to do and did it. Standing up and speaking out against the despotism they faced under King George III was both their right and their duty.

Let's look at what Merriam-Webster has to say about some of the words used by Mr. Jefferson:

- Abuse - a corrupt practice or custom; improper or excessive use or treatment: misuse
- Usurpation - to seize or exercise authority or possession wrongfully
- Reduced - to narrow down: restrict; to force to capitulate
- Despotism - oppressive absolute power and authority exerted by government
- Right - the power or privilege to which one is justly entitled
- Duty - obligatory tasks, conduct, service, or functions that arise from one's position; a moral or legal obligation



Fast forward almost 250 years. Take a look around. You don't have to look very hard to find abuses and usurpations in our government – local, state, and federal. We can find both just in the current Title IX ruling. What

about being reduced to despotism? Christians are being forced to capitulate to the government's whims all across this country – through fear and intimidation tactics disguised as inclusivity and compassion.

What is the right thing to do? I can't tell you what is right for you to do. James says that if we know the right thing to do, and we do not do it, we sin. I can tell you that knowing the right thing to do starts with prayer. Earlier in his book, James tells us:

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.” (James 1:5 ESV)

Ask God what He would have you do. Then DO IT. Once you ask the bold question, be prepared to follow up on what God reveals to you. Asking the question commits you to the answer. I cannot imagine that the men who put their all on the line for us almost 250 years ago did so without prayer. In fact, history tells us that there was a lot of prayer involved. So, too, let us not take the next steps without praying and laying it all at the Father's feet, but don't forget to take the next step!



Keri Ann Thompson,  
Constituent Services  
Rep. & Data Analyst

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Independence Day, a Right and a Duty	1
SENATE INSIGHTS: Tell the Senate: Don't Draft our Daughters	2
GENDER IDEOLOGY: Real and Mounting Evidence Against the Push to Trans Kids	3
GAVEL WATCH: Biology is not Bigotry, it's Biblical	4
CWA IN THE NEWS: Dads and Daughters Saying Goodbye	5
STATE HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS THE NATION: Having an Impact For the Glory of God	6
YOUNG WOMEN FOR AMERICA: Happy Summer from YWA!	8

Note significant "Saying Goodbye" piece on page 6.

## SENATE INSIGHTS

### Tell the Senate: Don't Draft our Daughters



Maggie McKneely, Legislative Strategist

Congress is once again attempting to draft the nation's daughters.

Earlier this month, the Senate Armed Services Committee reportedly approved an amendment to their version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would require young women to register with the Selective Service for a possible future draft. The House-passed version of the NDAA did not include this provision. That means that a

conference committee made up of select Senators and Representatives will now hammer out the differences between the bills before deciding on a final draft. We must ensure that this provision does not make it into the final bill.

There are numerous arguments against including women in the draft. The draft is meant for use in emergencies, and those included in the draft should be ready for combat. Yet many studies, including [this one](#) for the Naval Health Research Center, have shown that

*most* women cannot meet combat arms standards while *most* men can. Other [research](#) highlights that men are hard-wired to protect women, leading to dangerous situations on the battlefield.

But the fundamental issue here is that equality does



not equal sameness. Proponents of this provision argue that for women to have equality with men, they must be treated the same as men. They say that this is a matter of fairness and that because men must sign up for selective service, women should as well. But that is a denial of the inherent dignity of women and their intrinsic differences from their male peers.

Women currently have the freedom to sign up for any role in any branch of the military, and we commend those courageous patriots who do so. But to force them to

serve is to deny the different but important roles they often play in society instead – as mothers, wives, and caretakers.

Women do not need to have the same responsibilities as men in order to have equal worth to them, yet this provision denies that true claim. If Congress truly wants to respect women, it should not and will not allow women to be drafted alongside men.

Sacrificing our young women on the faux altar of equality is a dealbreaker.

#### PRAYER:

- Pray that the draft provision would be removed from the Senate bill before it goes to conference
- Pray that legislators would respect the inherent dignity and differences of men and women

**ACTION:** Use our [Action Center](#) to urge your Senator to vote NO on the NDAA amendment requiring young women to be drafted alongside men.

## GENDER IDEOLOGY

### Biden’s Title IX Getting Blocked in Court but August 1 Deadline Looms



Doreen Denny, Senior Advisor

No time was wasted in the legal challenges to the Biden Administration’s illegitimate rewrite of Title IX. Nine current lawsuits represent 26 states. Already, two federal district courts have ruled in favor of ten states requesting relief from the new mandates while trials get underway. Preliminary injunctions now cover Louisiana, Mississippi, Idaho, Montana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Virginia, and West Virginia. More rulings are on the horizon.

These judges agree that lawsuits against Biden’s Title IX Rule will succeed on the merits. They call out Biden’s Department of Education for wildly overstepping its authority and effectively erasing protections based on sex for female students causing immediate harm. In his [93-page decision](#), Judge Reeves minces no words in his criticism:

“The Department’s new definition of ‘discrimination on the basis of sex’ wreaks havoc on Title IX and produces results that Congress could not have intended.... For example, the new rules provide that recipients may separate students for purposes of fraternities and sororities, but not for purposes of utilizing bathrooms.” (pg. 25)

“The likely consequences of the Final Rule are virtually limitless.... the Final Rule creates myriad inconsistencies with Title IX’s text and its longstanding regulations.” (pg. 27)



#### On July 15, CWA Starts its Five Week She Prays She Votes Bus Tour!

Do you or someone you know live in or near the following cities?

Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Holland, Michigan  
Columbus, Ohio  
Pittsburgh & Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Forest, Virginia  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Covington, Louisiana  
Dallas, Texas  
Tucson, Arizona  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
Bozeman, Montana

Details and regular updates can be found at [SPSV webpage](#).

Be sure to check back often!

Favorable rulings in these first lawsuits are an encouraging sign for states willing to fight back. But with an August 1 deadline to comply, the long arm of Biden’s radical Title IX Rule is a looming threat for the coming school year. School districts not protected by

the courts are required to prioritize “gender identity” to minimize “sexual harassment” and to queer their educational programs, activities, pronouns, and facilities based on self-perceived identities, not male and female sex.



Congress can act by voting on the [Congressional Review Act resolution](#) disapproving the Biden Rule. This is an opportunity to get members of Congress on the record against Biden’s illegitimate rewrite. Join us as we continue the battle to Take Back Title IX.

**PRAYER:** “Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.” (Deuteronomy 31:6)

**ACTION:** [Send a message](#) to your Members of Congress urging support to block Biden’s Title IX Rule.

## GAVEL WATCH

### Biology is not Bigotry, it’s Biblical



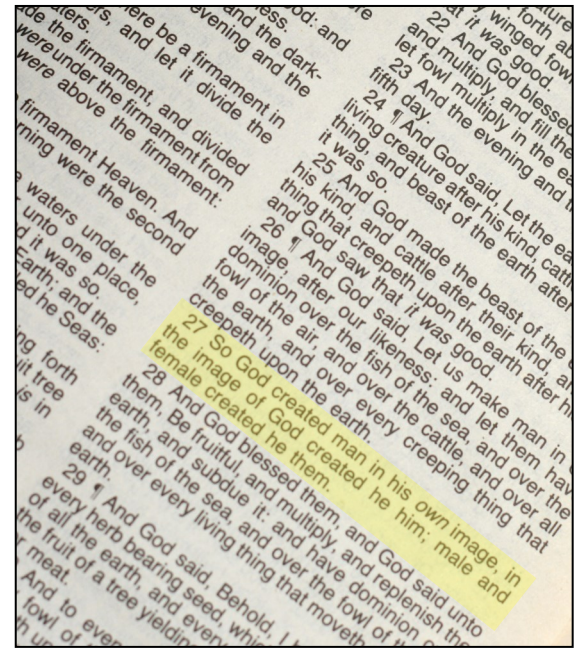
Rebecca Phillips,  
CWA Intern, Legal Studies

Sixteen current and former female athletes are suing

NCAA win its case against the athletes who have suffered from their policy.

the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) over their transgender policies that violate Title IX and the U.S. Constitution. The NCAA is a multi-billion dollar organization that has embraced radical gender ideology to boost its revenue from LGBTQ+ groups. Yet, their decision comes at the cost of the privacy and safety of female athletes. The NCAA’s policies completely ignore and undermine the undeniable physical disparities between men and women. Yet the National Women’s Law Center (NWLC) is trying to help the

The legal counsel for the female athletes wrote that “the NCAA’s Transgender Eligibility Policies are a house of cards, ill-grounded, and insubstantial in every way, and without scientific substance or merit. They exist only as a fig leaf for the NCAA’s ideology-driven decision to subordinate women’s opportunities in sport to the interests of men who declare themselves transgender.” The legal complaint was filed against the NCAA in March of 2024, and it was shortly responded to by the NWLC,



who filed to join the case alongside the NCAA.

Although the NCAA is already a powerful, well-funded operation, if the NWLC becomes a co-defendant in the lawsuit, that move would significantly help the NCAA.

Concerned Women for America (CWA) submitted a “declaration” in response to the NWLC’s motion to intervene in the class action lawsuit. A legal declaration is an official statement of fact that is submitted to the court.

Title IX was passed to protect women from discrimination and inequality, and the NCAA is

anathema to that purpose. The NWLC does not receive government funding and is, therefore, not subject to Title IX. Therefore, it is unfitting to be a co-

defendant in this lawsuit.

We know that men and women are made in God’s image, and their biological distinctions are Godly in design and glorify the Trinity.

**PRAYER:**

- CWA asks for your prayers that the NWLC’s motion to intervene in the NCAA lawsuit will not be granted.
- Pray that the female athletes will emerge triumphant from this legal battle, which reflects the depravity of lawmakers on a national level.
- Pray that Truth would be victorious in this lawsuit.

## CWA IN THE NEWS Dads and Daughters

Concerned Women for America (CWA) media hits are a good resource for your Chapter meetings (listen to the podcasts, watch the videos, print off articles, and discuss/share.)

### Women for America Podcasts



### [Addressing NextGen Marxism with Katie Gorka](#)

CWA’s Julia Campbell sits down with Katie Gorka, author of *NextGen Marxism: What It Is and*

*How to Combat It*, to address the various ways that Marxism has crept its way into American culture.

### [Help, There’s a Man in My Locker Room](#)

CWA Government Relations Intern Rebecca Phillips joins CWA’s Macy Petty and YWA Ambassador and 31-Time All-American swimmer Kylee Alons to tell her story of having to share a locker room at her local YMCA with a 66-year-old man.

### [The Reality of Being a Jewish American Student in 2024](#)

CWA recently sponsored focus groups for Jewish students from universities around the nation to better understand what they are dealing with on their campuses. The results were shocking.

This podcast recording on *Women for America* was taken from a webinar hosted by CWA CEO and President Penny Nance with Shermichael Singleton, conservative political strategist, writer, and commentator who facilitated the focus group, and YWA Chapter President Madelyn Sestak, who hosted a prayer vigil for Israel on her campus.

### Television/Online Media/Radio

June 5: The “Zero Compromise Podcast” (Answers in Genesis’ Young Adults Podcast that featured Penny [posted this week](#).)

June 16: CWA joined our coalition in [honoring](#) “girl dads” in a Father’s Day and Title IX video campaign.

June 23: On the 52nd anniversary of Title IX, YWA compiled a [video](#) of former female athletes on CWA’s staff for a video urging the Biden Administration not to “drop the ball” on Title IX.



## Print Media

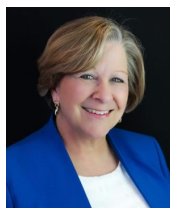
June 3: CWA's Maggie McKneely exposes the antisemitism spreading throughout the education system in her [op-ed](#) featured in *The Christian Post*.

June 4: Penny calls out President Biden for abusing the justice system to imprison pro-life activists in her [op-ed](#) featured in *Newsweek*.

June 24: CWA's Macy Petty blasts the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for requiring young women to register with the selective service in her latest [op-ed](#) in *Fox News*.

June 24: CWA's effort to build a coalition urging Congress to reject the NDAA Amendment is featured in an [exclusive piece](#) by *The Daily Signal*.

## Saying Goodbye



Tanya Ditty, Vice President of Field Operations

There are seasons of life for all of us, and that is where I find myself today. I am saying goodbye after serving CWA for over 20 years as a state volunteer and nearly six years on staff in my current position.

I had the privilege to speak with CWA's founder, Mrs. Beverly LaHaye, several weeks before her passing. In our conversation, I thanked her again for trailblazing the way for women like me who desire to serve the Lord in the public policy arena. CWA has afforded me the opportunity to serve alongside so many wonderful women who love this country and are committed to, first and foremost praying for America and

advocating for Truth in the public square.

Thank you for the honor of leading you in our grassroots efforts at CWA. It's been an absolute joy and privilege! As you go about each day, think on Psalm 37:3, "Trust in the LORD and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness."

Tanya

## STATE HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS THE NATION

### Having an Impact For the Glory of God

CWA leaders around the country are having an impact one prayer and one action at a time for the glory of God.



**CWA of Virginia** leaders gathered in Richmond to learn about the work of several Cabinet members who serve under Gov. Glenn Youngkin: Secretary of the Commonwealth Kelly Gee and Secretary of Diversity, Opportunity, and Inclusion Martin Brown. They enjoyed a time of encouragement and prayer with each of the members. They plan to continue visits over the summer.

CWA of Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Virginia rallied with female athletes in support of the Take Back Title IX bus tour led by a coalition of organizations of which CWA was a part.



Oklahoma City, OK



CWA of South Carolina's West Columbia Prayer/Action Chapter kicked off its first meeting. They all enjoyed getting to know CWA better as chapter leader Kay Mein presented introductory information via printed materials, videos, and lively discussion.



Scranton, PA



CWA of Arizona's Quad City Prayer/Action Chapter concluded a project in which they collected over \$3,000 worth of supplies and delivered them to the Prescott Community Pregnancy Center. They would like to thank the multiple organizations and churches that contributed. Thank you to Heights Women's Bible Study, Vital Moms, Taco Church, American Lutheran Church, and the many individuals who generously donated.



Virginia Beach, VA

## YOUNG WOMEN FOR AMERICA Happy Summer from YWA!



Morgan Schlesselman, YWA National Director

Young Women for America (YWA) has kicked off summer with multiple tabling engagements – [Stoa's National Invitational Tournament of Champions](#) and Turning Point USA's Young Women's Leadership Summit – and had incredible conversations with prospective leaders. One young woman filled out the entire president application when listening to Concerned Women for America (CWA)'s Executive Vice President Annabelle Rutledge speak! It is always a privilege to share the work of YWA and CWA with young women nationwide.



Summer brings many of our YWA leaders to Washington, D.C., to intern all over the city. We love running into them on the National Mall, at church, and hosting get-togethers. The “Take Back Title IX” bus tour stopped in D.C. and YWA had a great showing of support at the event.

One of our YWA Regional Coordinators, Ana Castillo, moved into a finance/office manager role at CWA. We are sad to see her go but excited about what's in store for her! We are grateful and excited to add Katy Hergenreter to the YWA team. Here's her introduction:



“Hi, my name is Katy Hergenreter, and I am from Charlotte, North Carolina. I graduated from Liberty University (L.U.) with my undergrad in Interdisciplinary Studies with a focus in Business, Communication, and Languages. I also completed a Masters in Business Administration from L.U. After graduation last summer, I interned with CWA in the YWA department. That experience showed me how our faith directly applies to the culture that we are living in and the importance of public policy. Interning with CWA



allowed me to cultivate a passion for using my voice to uphold His truth by helping to defend our constitutional principles for traditional family values. I am thrilled to be the new Northern Regional Coordinator for YWA, as I believe the Lord placed me here for such a time as this. I look forward to supporting young women as they stand firm in God's truth across America.”

**ACTION:** As we gear up for the She Prays She Votes bus tour, please pray for our leaders who will join us from all across the country to share the importance of voting Biblical values in this election and how they will take that passion to their campuses in the fall.

CWA RESOURCE

### CHECK OUT CWA's ACTION CENTER

Visit CWA's [Action Center](#) for current federal issues in which to take a stand. We make it easy for your voice to be heard! Share with your chapter members regularly.