

# INFLUENCER

## MONTHLY



FEBRUARY 2025

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

### Discerning the Times

“And now for a little while **grace has been shown from the Lord our God**, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a **measure of revival in our bondage**. For we were slaves. **Yet our God did not forsake us in our bondage; but He extended mercy to us** in the sight of the kings of Persia, **to revive us, to repair the house of our God, to rebuild its ruins**, and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem.” – Ezra 9: 8-9

During this period, King Cyrus of Persia overcame Babylon and became the new empirical power. Ezra recognized God’s hand in this and discerned that it was time for the Israelites to leave their land of bondage and go back to Jerusalem. Ezra discerned that it was time to act during this window of time. He saw that God was giving them a “peg” – a sure position and a specific opportunity.

Ezra not only understood the time and the season, but he also discerned the reason God extended grace and mercy. **The change of the political landscape indicated that God’s time to restore had come!** Ezra and a remnant of people seized this window of opportunity and knew it was time to advance and accomplish God’s purposes.

Similarly, America was extended a window of God’s grace and mercy through the 2024 election. As Ezra did, we must also discern the season we are in. I Chronicles 12:32 speaks of the *“sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do.”* It is not beneficial to just understand the times. We must also be able to hear and discern from God to know what He wants us to accomplish during this season.

America experienced a severe form of bondage in the last season and was heading in a destructive direction. But God, in His great mercy, answered our prayers and extended His grace to us – His undeserved and unmerited favor. He blessed us with a President who stands for many of the values that are important to us individually, and to Concerned Women for America. Now, it is time for us to seize this window of opportunity and partner with the Holy Spirit to rebuild, restore, repair, and revive our beloved nation. As we do, I believe we will be amazed at what He will do in these next four years!

Denise Cappuccio, CPA  
Chief Financial Officer





## Sign up for CWA's Texts Now

Prayer/Action Chapter Leaders: If you haven't already, at your next meeting, ask you attendees to pull out their phones and sign up for CWA's texts.

**Have them text "TRUTH" to 87884.**

### SENATE INSIGHTS

## Senate Confirms Conservative Nominees



Maggie McKneely, Legislative Strategist

While there are a slew of legislative goals on the Senate's agenda for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, the first order of business is to process and confirm President Trump's cabinet secretaries.

The first nominee to be confirmed was [Marco Rubio](#) as the new Secretary of State. He earned a good rapport with colleagues on both sides of the aisle during his time in the Senate, allowing him to be confirmed unanimously. Since being sworn in, Rubio has implemented a "one flag policy," declaring that only the American flag will fly over U.S. State buildings (such as embassies), rather than flying the pride flag in addition to it.

After a fiery nomination process, Vice President J.D. Vance cast the tie-breaking vote to confirmed [Pete Hegseth](#) as Secretary of Defense. Both his personal time in the military and his dedication to helping veterans since demonstrate Hegseth's devotion to protecting America's war fighters and ensuring that the nation is ready to stand against any future threats. In addition to these great qualities, he is also a man of humility and strong faith. In light of the allegations leveled against him, Hegseth said, "I am not a perfect person, but redemption is real, and God forged me in ways that I know that I'm prepared to fight for."

Awaiting their final confirmation votes are [Russ Vought](#) and [Pam Bondi](#). Russ Vought has been nominated for the job he held during the first Trump administration, that of Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Pam Bondi is slated to be the Attorney General. Both are extremely capable. During his first term, Vought worked tirelessly to reform out-of-control agencies, making it more difficult to issue guidance and putting a stop to trainings on critical race theory. Bondi spent 18 years as a prosecutor before becoming Florida's first female attorney general. She is a champion for fairness and justice and is well-suited to the task of cleaning up the Department of Justice.

The Senate has many more nominations to process, but they are off to a strong start.

**PRAY:** Please pray the Senate will continue to work efficiently, so that the President has the personnel he needs to enact his agenda. Also, pray that Senators will be wise and discerning as they consider each person who has been nominated for such powerful positions.

## HOUSE INSIGHTS

## Pro-Life Victories Kick Start Momentum in the New Administration and Congress



Macy Petty, Legislative Strategist

Thousands of pro-lifers gathered together on January 24 in the nation's capital for the annual March for Life. After voting out the most radical pro-abortion president in history, the marchers already had several victories from Congress and the White House to set a stage of optimism.

The fights on the House and Senate floors last month remind us just how radical the pro-abortion message has become. Both chambers of Congress voted on the [Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act](#) which simply clarifies that if an attempted abortion fails, meaning the baby survives, the health care practitioner is required to administer the proper degree of care to the infant outside the womb, just as they would any other infant. How can anyone think this controversial? Though unanimous Democrat opposition stopped the bill in the Senate, it swiftly passed the House with bipartisan support.

At the White House, President Trump delivered within hours of taking the oath of office. The "reproductiverights.gov" website that connected women to local abortion providers was removed from the web. President Trump [recognized](#) "'Female' means a person belonging, *at conception*, to the sex that produces the large reproductive cell" in one of his first Executive Orders. Notice, the order notes a basic essence of humanity, a person's biological sex, is engrained from the moment of conception.

President Trump also pardoned [23 pro-life activists](#) charged under the weaponization of the FACE Act, something Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC) members have been asking for, even as we work for the full repeal of this [unjust and unconstitutional law](#). He also issued guidance via-Executive Order to revive [the Mexico City Policy](#) which prohibits federal tax dollars from promoting abortion overseas and strengthened [Hyde Amendment](#) enforcement which similarly protects tax dollars here in the homeland.

President Trump appeared via-video at the annual March, and Vice President Vance took the stage for his first appearance after the inauguration. This appearance, along with their remarks, sent a strong message to the pro-life movement; "We are with you" promised the VP. The rally erupted in cheers, celebrating the dawn of a new day for the movement.

The pro-life movement had a lot to celebrate and it is only the beginning for new leadership here in D.C. CWALAC continues to advocate in the nation's capital on behalf of all our leaders, and we're grateful to see a unified government coming together for the protection of the unborn.

**ACTION:** Check and see if your representative voted for the Born Alive Act [here](#). Be sure to encourage them in the pro-life fight if she voted for it and respectfully express your disappointment if they did not.

**PRAYER:** Continue to pray for wisdom for President Trump and Vice President Vance as they address the issue of abortion in our nation.

## CWA IN THE NEWS

## Fox News, Newsmax, American Family Radio, and the Supreme Court Steps: CWA is Speaking on Your Behalf!

December 24: FoxNews.com - [How Transgenderism in Sports Shifted the 2024 Election and Ignited a National Counterculture](#) - Macy Petty, Legislative Strategist and former NCAA volleyball athlete, discussed CWA's exit poll question.

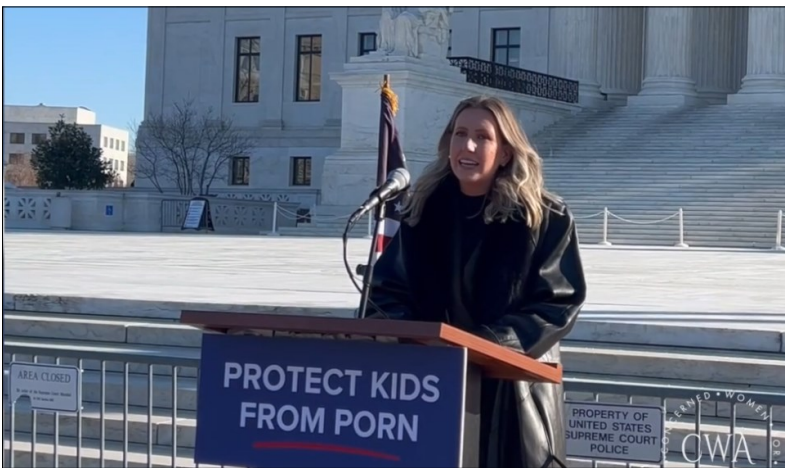
January 3: FoxNews.com - [Bill Keeping Trans Athletes Out of Women's Sports will be Heard by Congress After New Rules Package Passes](#) - Macy quoted concerning the Protecting Women and Girls in Sports Act.

January 4: FoxNews.com - [The Clock is Ticking for the NCAA to Change its Trans Policy and Protect Women's Sports](#) - Senior Advisor Doreen Denny wrote an op-ed about the NCAA's current policy on transgender athletes in women's sports.

January 10: Newsmax - [The Right Squad](#) - Penny joined a panel to talk about current events.

January 14: U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn's (R-Tennessee-District 7) senate.gov website - [Blackburn Introduces Bills to Protect Young Women in Sports](#) - CWA CEO and President Penny Nance quoted on the importance of protecting women's sports.

January 15: FoxNews.com - [Republican to Propose Resolution Calling on NCAA to Ban Trans Athletes from Women's Sports](#) - Macy is quoted about her experience speaking with NCAA Board of Governors Chair Dr. Linda Livingstone last year.



[Sports](#) - Macy commented on NCAA convention (starts at 0:58).

January 16: American Principles Project Rally - [CWA's Executive Vice President Annabelle Rutledge at the US Supreme Court](#) - Annabelle spoke in front of the Supreme Court about protecting children online.

January 22: American Family Radio - [Jenna Ellis in the Morning](#) - Penny discusses the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) (starts at 20:30).

January 22: Newsmax - [The Right Squad](#) - Penny joins a panel and talks about current events.



## GENDER IDEOLOGY

## NCAA Feeling the Heat– Are Your Members of Congress on Board?



Doreen Denny, Senior Advisor

When the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) convened in Nashville for its annual meeting in January, you may have caught my article in Fox News: [The clock is ticking for NCAA to change its trans policy and protect women’s sports](#). CWA and YWA were on the ground in Nashville to speak directly with college administrators. We were emboldened by our first victory of the year in Congress with [the](#) House passage of the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act!

Macy Petty had a chance encounter (thank you, God!) with Baylor President Linda Livingstone who doubles as Chair of the NCAA Board of Governors. Dr. Livingstone, along with President Charlie Baker, has failed to confront the injustice of trans-athlete eligibility in women’s sports despite the devastating consequences facing college female athletes. Macy delivered a powerful message as a Christian woman and fellow NCAA female athlete.

With initiative from Macy who played college volleyball in Tennessee, Republican state legislators rolled out the welcome mat with a [strong letter to the NCAA](#) demanding it restore the protections of Title IX for female athletes. Macy was featured in a prime time segment in Nashville’s evening news: [Tennessee athletes plead with NCAA to end trans athlete participation in female sports](#).

To top our efforts, CWA successfully secured sponsors for a congressional resolution calling on the NCAA to revoke its policy allowing trans-identifying males to compete in women’s sports. As the convention was underway, champions Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tennessee) and Rep. Greg Steube (R-Florida) [jumped into action](#) introducing a resolution “Concerning the National Collegiate Athletic Association policy for eligibility in women’s sports” ([S. Res. 22](#), [H. Res. 47](#)).

**TAKE ACTION:** Actions by state and federal officials add much needed heat to NCAA leadership who have resisted the call for restoring fairness and integrity of women’s sports. Here is how you can help:

1. Ask allies in your state legislature to sponsor a letter or resolution calling on the NCAA to reaffirm its commitment to female athletes.
2. Ask your members of U.S. Congress to cosponsor the NCAA congressional resolution and seek a vote. Find the list of cosponsors at these links: [S.Res. 22](#); [H. Res. 47](#). Contact your members within our [ACTION CENTER](#). We make it easy!

**PRAY:** “Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.” Psalm 119:35

### Promote Young Women for America in Your Area!

CWA’s Young Women for America initiative focuses on prayer, education, and action through the leadership of our Campus Chapter Presidents and our Ambassadors. Promote YWA, order these push cards from your State Director, if applicable, or contact [Michelle Minor](#).



STATE HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS THE NATION

**Buzz Buzz**

January was abuzz with tremendous activity from CWA leaders across the country. Many of the state legislatures have kicked into gear sending CWA leaders into coalition meetings, lobbying legislators and their staff, testifying before legislative committees, tabling, and more. They took a stand on countless bills such as abortion, marijuana, religious liberty, parental rights, marriage, hormone therapy and surgical mutilation of minors, education, to name a few.

Update on our Encourage-A-Legislator (EAL) program: It now covers more legislators than it ever has; 2,600 state legislators are being prayed for and have begun to receive encouraging postcards on a regular basis. This will continue throughout their legislative session. Pray the Holy Spirit works through this program and that every legislator is brought closer to the Lord as a result.



**CWA of Louisiana** introduced CWA to the attendees of the March for Life at the state capital.



**CWA of North Dakota's** Mary Ellen Kirking, Women for America Influencer, tabled at the Pro-Life Conference in Bismarck.



**CWA of South Dakota's** State Director Linda Schauer testified against a resolution that would support a Convention of the States to amend the U.S. Constitution.



**CWA of Virginia's** Lynchburg City Prayer/Action Chapter discussed local, state, and national issues important to them.



**CWA of Missouri's** Branson/Taney County Chapter Prayer/Action Chapter watched the inauguration together. They prayed for our country and toasted President Trump with sparkling cider!



**CWA of California** participated in the Speak Up Imperial Valley Rally event that featured a display of luminaries representing the lives lost to abortion and testimonies were shared by abortion survivors and post-abortive women.



**CWA of Colorado** and Rep. Scott Bottom (R-District 15) after joining a small daily gathering of legislators and staff for praise and prayer.



**CWA of New Mexico's 2025 Rally for Life, Save the Babies**, was a great success with excellent speakers and standing room only!



**CWA of North Dakota's State Director, Linda Thorson**, testified in opposition to a redefinition of marriage bill.



**CWA of Kansas** introduced CWA to those attending a Bible reading and prayer event at the state capitol.



**CWA National, CWA of Texas, and CWA of the future** assembled packets for participants of the Texas EAL program. (Left to right) Keri Ann Thompson, CWA National's Constituent Services Rep. and Data Analyst, as well as state EAL Coordinator; Ana Thompson (Keri Ann's daughter), CWA's future activist; and Kenda Bartlett (Keri Ann's mother), CWA National's Chief Administrative Officer. Yes, this is three generations of CWA involvement!



**CWA of Virginia's** legislative team regularly visits the capitol to take a stand on bills, pray with legislators, and lobby legislators and staff.



## YOUNG WOMEN FOR AMERICA

**Championing Women in Athletics and Beyond**

Faith Ozenbaugh, National Director of Young Women for America

At Concerned Women for America (CWA), every issue we address has an impact on individuals from all walks of life. However, some issues particularly resonate with young women, affecting their lives in profound ways. One such issue, where God has called our leaders to be a powerful voice, is the preservation of fairness in women's sports.

The history of this issue spans many years, but in recent months Young Women for America (YWA) leaders across the country have engaged in notable ways, bringing truth and the love of Christ to those facing discrimination in athletics.

Upon discovering a trans-identifying male on the women's volleyball team at San Jose State University (SJSU), YWA leaders at universities scheduled to play SJSU took action. Leaders wrote letters to school administration and athletic directors, being the voice for female athletes on their campuses. Several schools took heed and forfeited their games upholding the safety and dignity of their athletes.

The University of Nevada Reno (UNR) would not forfeit their game, but the team bravely refused to play. YWA's Inland Empire Chapter, inspired by their courage, wrote letters of encouragement to the team. In their notes, they offered their gratitude and shared the Gospel.

Soon after, in Riverside, California, a high school cross country team cut a female athlete from the women's team, granting a spot to a trans-identifying male. The young woman, along with over 150 classmates, began wearing "Save Girls Sports" shirts to school and were threatened with expulsion. YWA Inland Empire, composed of students from California Baptist University in Riverside, immediately reached out to the students offering support. They were present at the school board meeting that soon followed, organizing a prayer vigil beforehand. They faced immense opposition from pro-LGBTQ+ protestors at the meeting, yet carried on in prayer over the athletes, school board members, and local community leaders. Tori Hitchcock, Chapter President, was interviewed by Fox News about the evening.

YWA leaders nationwide are rejoicing in the House passage of the



Tori Hitchcock, YWA Inland Empire (California) Chapter President and Salomay McCullough, YWA Ambassador, at the Riverside Unified School Board Meeting in their "XX ≠ XY" shirts.



YWA Inland Empire chapter members and family gather to pray outside the Riverside Unified School Board Meeting.



CWA Staff with Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson, at a press conference after the House passed the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.



Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act that occurred mid-January. Many of our leaders have spent months advocating for legislation on both the state and federal level and join us in celebrating this huge win for women.

In efforts to get the same bill passed in the Senate, leaders from Georgia, Pennsylvania, Arizona, and Michigan are setting up meetings with their respective Senators and staff, urging them to vote in favor of this legislation. Their voices have a unique impact on this issue, and we are blessed to empower them to meet this moment in culture.

YWA will continue to be strong advocates for female athletes, and even greater, for God's intentional design of men and women.

**PRAYER:** Please join us in prayer for more opportunities to be a voice and for policy to be implemented on the local, state, and federal level that champions women's safety, dignity, and opportunities.