



The Influencer Monthly

Who's in Charge of Your Work?



Karen Pennington
State Director, Colorado

Have you ever stopped and thought, how effective is my work for Concerned Women for America? Does my work point others to Jesus? These questions became more real to me during the week of the 2025 CWA Leadership Summit. I cannot ignore the impact of those events as I reflect on the work we do.

After the assassination of Charlie Kirk, we witnessed appalling mocking of his death, fear over safety concerns, and also the world memorializing Charlie in praise and worship to our Lord. All of that was a reaction to the life work Charlie Kirk chose out of obedience – to bring Glory to God and point others to Jesus. Charlie depended on God to direct his, often dangerous, work.

I believe that we all want to unapologetically represent Christ and CWA well. We feel the weight of accomplishing our goal to speak truth when parental rights are being eroded, or the preborn are still being killed. I don't know about you, but when nothing seems to work, I often resort to using my own strengths, my own skills, or my own wisdom to direct the work. I reason, this work is important, and I must make it succeed. I confuse my work with God's work and struggle to let go of control.

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OCTOBER 2025

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

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work cont.

Merriam-Webster defines control as, “to exercise restraining or directing influence over” something or someone. That we presume to direct the work through our own influence, eliminating the need for God’s involvement, is prideful. I am sure this is not our intent.

Our challenge is to put God in charge of our work. “Whether we eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (I Corinthians 10:31). To relinquish control and invite God into our work can achieve Christ’s plan for our work, thus, acknowledging “thy will, not mine be done” (Luke 22:42).

Even a very wise King Solomon stated: “Don’t ever think that you are wise enough, but respect God and stay away from evil” (Proverbs, 3:7). The following passage by the famous 19th century minister, Andrew Murray, reveals a way of inviting God into our work.

“The Spirit teaches me to yield my will entirely to the will of the Father. He opens my ear to wait in great gentleness and teachableness of soul for what the Father has day by day to speak and to teach. He discovers with me how union with God’s will is union with God Himself; how entire surrender to God’s will is the Father’s claim, the Son’s example, and the true blessedness of the soul.”

I believe we can learn from Charlie’s dependence on God as shown in his life work and death For God’s Glory, confident that all things work together for good to those who love God.

Prayer

Father, God of the Universe,
thank You for being involved
in the affairs of men. We relinquish
our control and humble ourselves
to Your will in our work. Thank
You for Your provision of guidance,
comfort, and knowledge through
the Holy Spirit in us. Not my
will, but Thine be done, In Jesus’s
name and For His Glory, Amen.



On the Hill

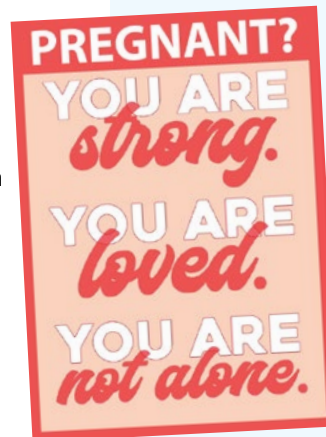
THE SENATE in Review

Advocating for MOMs



Maggie McKneely
Legislative Strategist

During the lobby day portion of this year’s Summit, one of the bills that we advocated for was the [More Opportunities for Moms \(MOMs\) Act](#). Sponsored by Sen. Katie Britt (R-Alabama) and Rep. Michelle Fischbach (R-Minnesota 7th), the bill’s overarching goal is to ensure that women have access to the resources they need both during pregnancy and the early years of motherhood.



The bill’s chief provision is the creation of Pregnancy.gov, an idea that CWA has championed for many years. We know that nearly 87% of women who get abortions are unmarried. These women feel alone and unequipped to face an unexpected pregnancy. While we in the pro-life movement know that there are countless resources out there for these

new moms, most of them only ever see advertising from Planned Parenthood. We want them to know that there are other options, other organizations willing and able to support them however they need.

The MOMs Act, if passed, would direct the Health and Human Services Department to use already existing funds to create this federal-level website, one where a woman needs only type in her zip code in order to discover all the various resources available near her. These would include not only pregnancy resources centers, but also mental health services, food stamp assistance, financial tutoring, workforce resources – nearly anything a woman could need in this season, except for abortion providers. Three states – Florida, North Dakota, and South Dakota - already have a state-level website like this. Our hope is that one day women across the nation will have access this lifesaving resource.

October Chapter Tip

'Tis the Season for Pumpkin Spice, Apple Cider, and Vibrant Colors

- Host a fall tea and cider event at a Chapter meeting.
- Highlight one of CWA's Core Issues.
- Invite ladies to bring a favorite fall dessert to share at your meeting.
- Make and deliver "thank you" cards for local pastors.



In addition to creating Pregnancy.gov, the MOMs Act would require states to apply child support obligations to the period of pregnancy, rather than starting payments after the child is born. This ensures that the father has a financial obligation to the child from the time of conception. It would also establish a grant program to help non-profit pregnancy resource centers better support, encourage, and assist women in carrying their pregnancies to term and help them care for their babies after birth.



PRAYER

Pray that legislators will carry this message forward—that life begins at conception and every human life deserves the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Pray for courageous champions of life in the U.S. Congress.

ACTION

Watch this legislation progress, and encourage your representatives to offer their support until it passes and becomes law.

Praise the LORD for the nearly 200 women who attended the Lobby Day Event on September 11, and met with 80 different congressional offices, advocating for moms and their babies!



AUGUST 26 Penny Nance, CEO and President, appeared on *Uncommon Sense in Current Times* in an episode titled: [“Are Women’s Sports Under Attack? | Penny Nance on Protecting Title IX & Biblical Truth.”](#)

SEPTEMBER 3 Hannah Lape, Legislative Assistant, published her report, [“Gender-Affirming Care Is on the Way Out in 2025,”](#) on the closures of numerous “gender affirming care clinics,” finding that dozens of hospitals and networks have shut down transgender surgery/operations since February 1 of this year.

SEPTEMBER 3 Penny appeared on [The Sean Spicer Show](#) to discuss the dangers of transgender ideology in our schools and sports.

SEPTEMBER 5 Hannah published an op-ed in *The Blaze* detailing the [“Big abortion's big lie: The truth about Planned Parenthood's collapse.”](#) She cheers the defund provision in the Working Family Tax Cut Act (formerly BBB), but also notes that “Planned Parenthood was digging its own grave long before Congress penned the BBB.”

SEPTEMBER 10 Maggie McKneely wrote a piece for the Washington Examiner, [“The push to support and expand gambling is misguided,”](#) where she applauded a provision in the Working Family Tax Cut Act to curb sports betting. “Prior to the legislation, sports bettors could deduct 100% of their losses from their wins. But starting in 2026, the bill will narrowly increase the tax on gamblers by changing the deduction from 100% to 90%.”

SEPTEMBER 20 Maggie appeared on a panel at the [Texas Youth Conference](#) (start at 36:40) to discuss the protection of youth from harmful online content.

SEPTEMBER 23 Penny wrote an op-ed for Fox News called [“There is nothing compassionate about providing so-called gender-affirming care.”](#) She closed out the piece with a powerful call-to-action:

“We cannot let this gender-affirming care model stand. We need to be able to support those questioning their gender, to meet them with real mental health counseling, and to tell them they are exactly the way God created them – male or female. We need to stop placating sad, hurt children with lies, drugs, or scalpels.”



Hannah posts an [ALERT](#) warning that Fairfax County Schools in Virginia are still harming girls in private spaces.



“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

John 1:5



Macy Petty
Legislative Strategist

HOUSE BUSINESS

Women's Sports

Just in time for Concerned Women for America's (CWA) Summit titled "Gaining Ground," the U.S. House of Representatives voted on a measure to keep men out of women's sports. Just last

Congress, not a single Democrat was willing to vote for such protections, but the dam finally cracked earlier this year, and with the most recent vote, recorded support increased five-fold.

Just last week, the U.S. House voted on the **National Defense Authorization Act of 2026**. Members offered hundreds of amendments, one of which was introduced by Rep. Nancy Mace (R-South Carolina 1st) and would prohibit men from competing on women's athletic teams at military academies. The amendment made it all the way to the House Floor, and the full vote was astounding.

This was the first time in several months that House members recorded their positions on men in women's sports since the two democrats defied the party line in January. This time, [10 Democrats voted](#) on the side of protecting women.

Gaining Ground in the House

You can't help but notice the CWA and YWA activism in these members' home states: California, home to some of the largest CWA chapters; Maine, where friend of CWA Laura Libby was censured in the legislature for her views on women's sports; Nevada, where one of CWA's newest State Directors resides; New York, Washington, and more.

The Democrat position replacing women in sports with men is leading their members to failure, and they are jumping ship. This is a tipping point. Energy is also rising within the Republican Party. After CWALAC's lobby day, more members have been signing on to the **Protection of Women in Olympic and Amateur Sports Act** bringing the [co-sponsor count up to 59](#).

Senator Kevin Cramer
September 12 at 10:49 AM · 🌐

Concerned Women for America of North Dakota leaders met with me to discuss efforts to protect women's sports at all levels of competition.



👍👏👏 Beth Brown, Janne Myrdal and 75 others

159 comments 8 shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

🔗 Share

CWA of North Dakota delegation
discussing legislation to protect female athletes
with Senator Cramer (R-North Dakota).

Truth's resounding victory is defying political bounds. Momentum is ours, and Concerned Women for America LAC will continue emboldening members of Congress, regardless of political party, to stand up for women, truth, and families. We are more energized than ever, and the 206 Democrats still unwilling to protect women will not only have to answer to us, but the thousands of other constituents, particularly young women, on whom they have turned their backs.

Thank these members for their support of female athletes:
www.congress.gov/votes/house/119-1/247!

PRAYER

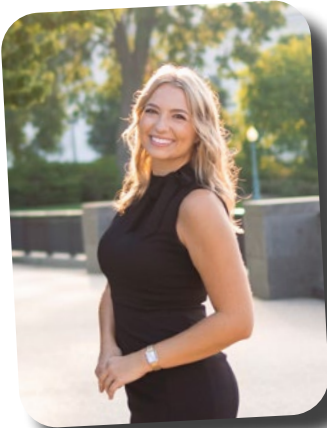
Pray that all members of Congress recognize the dignity of women, and come to agreement that protecting the rights of women to compete fairly in sports is right and just.

ACTION

Download the "[Standing with Female Athletes](#)" push card and use the information to educate your chapter members on the facts about Title IX and how the current gender ideology issues are affecting women and girls.

"Always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and fear..." – 1 Peter 3:15b

preparing for BATTLE



Faith Ozenbaugh, Young Women for America National Director

YWA Joyfully Welcomes Leaders to Washington, D.C.

The city feels different when it's filled with our grassroots leaders. From the California desert to the shores of Delaware, young women from across the nation gathered in our capital last month for YWA Leadership Training—a weekend of equipping, fellowship, and kingdom-shaking prayer. They came not only for community but to prepare for the war—a war that is increasingly real, spiritual, and demanding.

In times of tragedy, there's no better place to be than in a room filled with believers who love the truth, seek wisdom, and serve selflessly.

That's who our Young Women for America leaders are. Each year we welcome back Ambassadors and Chapter Presidents alongside those new to the movement. The result is an electric mix of seasoned leaders and fresh energy, all coming together to be better equipped as advocates for our issues.

Our days were filled with excellent speakers and hands-on training. For many, it was the first time they truly experienced the reality that they can use their voices boldly and clearly for the things that matter most. And as they do, they have an army of sisters cheering them on. Skill-building is essential at our events, but nothing compares to the strength gained during our times of prayer and worship, which prepare our women for the work ahead.

The lifecycle of leaders in a student and young professional program is always moving. Events like this showcase it well. While we wish we could keep every leader forever, seasons inevitably change—and that's both natural and beautiful. This year we honored seven leaders who have faithfully served for years by building chapters, testifying on legislation, and discipling countless peers. At the same time, we welcomed the eager inquiries of high school girls newly inspired to join the fight after a Spirit-filled weekend together. As we celebrate the leadership of our established chapters nationwide, we also look forward with anticipation to what God will do through YWA in the months ahead.

The battle is raging, but the army is growing. United in the Gospel, YWA is stronger than ever and ready for such a time as this. To God be the glory—for our weekend together, our ministry, and the leaders who make it all a joy!



YWA leaders lobby alongside CWA leaders on the MOMS Act and the Protection of Women and Girls in Olympic and Amateur Sports Act.



Leaders worship together ahead of our Friday sessions.



YWA and CWA leaders gather for prayer after our support for Israel panel.

PRAYER

Pray for inspired YWA leaders to be equipped for service in their roles praying and advocating for Biblical values in public policy.

ACTION

Connect with YWA Chapters in your state and partner with young members in events and legislative advocacy.

Leadership Summit

2025 Memory Book

One hundred twenty Concerned Women for America (CWA) leaders and guests, 120 Young Women for America (YWA) leaders and guests, and 60 CWA Ministry Partners gathered in Washington, D.C., for a memorable Summit 2025. Registration day was interrupted by the unbelievable news that TPUSA founder and CWA/YWA friend, Charlie Kirk, was shot and killed by an assassin during a rally at Utah Valley University. Stunned Summit participants gathered in groups around the lobby and in hotel rooms to pray for the family and mourn this giant Christian influencer of our time. In many ways, the resolve to continue our event to equip leaders to impact the culture for Christ through prayer, education, and advocacy was magnified by this shocking loss.

Day #1

Legislative Updates and Lobby Day on the Hill

Participants packed into the Senate Visitor's Center at the U.S. Capitol to hear from Sens. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Mississippi), Marsha Blackburn (R-Tennessee), Reps. Lisa McClain (R-Michigan 9th), Robert Aderholt (R-Alabama 4th), and Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana 4th). Penny Nance presented Speaker Johnson with the William Wilberforce Award for his tireless work for the Sanctity of Life. Penny made an impassioned speech in response to Charlie Kirk's murder. In it she stated, "Put points on the board while there's time. Do not grow weary in well-doing. This is the season to reap the harvest."



Led by Legislative Strategists, Maggie McNeely and Macy Petty, our leaders partnered with YWA leaders in making 80 office visits, where they lobbied for co-sponsorship on the More Opportunities for MOMs Act and the Protection for Women in Amateur and Olympic Sports Act.

That evening, CWA enjoyed delicious chocolaty creations while connecting with friends old and new at a Decadent Dessert Reception.

"Put points on the board while there's time. Do not grow weary in well-doing. This is the season to reap the harvest."

See [Penny's full response](#) to Charlie's death.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven." –Matthew 5:10-12



1) CWA of TEXAS Delegation 2) CWA of KENTUCKY Delegation
3) CWA of NORTH DAKOTA Delegation 4) CWA of IOWA
Delegation 5) CWA of NEW MEXICO Delegation 6) CWA of
OKLAHOMA Delegation 7) CWA of FLORIDA Delegation



In Their Own Words

Feedback is still coming in, but here are a few of the responses so far:

Many thanks again for the wonderful planning that you and the staff poured into making the Summit an amazing and inspiring event for all! The Lord is already at work and answering prayers, as I hope to start a local Prayer/Action Chapter in my area with a few ladies interested in learning more about being a part of it! **Anne Powell, Guest, Florida**

"The week was overwhelmingly great. I am still full of emotion with all the events and happenings of the week. I am far beyond blessed and grateful that the LORD has placed me in this organization. Thank you for all your direction and leadership. Prayers for you and your team." **Mary Meininger, State Director of Kansas**

"Wow! It was glorifying and motivating! All your speakers were inspiring! I loved both worship sessions! The Spirit brought us all bowing down to worship Him and be in His presence when Misha Goetz led us in worship. We were all in tears! I loved the energy with YWA and fellowshipping with them. What hope for the future! Penny's college tour will be powerful! **Susie Hawk, Prayer/Action Chapter Coordinator for CWA of California**

It was personally encouraging to see that this is a group of regular women, like me, my sisters, and my neighbors —everyday women who live for Christ. Many of the chapters are small in numbers, we're not an outlier. I guess in the back of my mind, I didn't believe I would fit in, not in a self-demeaning or insecure way, but in a practical way. But this is an organization for EVERY woman. Come as you are, the doors are open for all, from professionals to stay-at-home moms, the extraordinary to the ordinary, small town, big town, rich and poor, on and on. **AMAZING! Teri Whitehead, Holly Prayer/Action Chapter Leader, Michigan**

Day #2

Leadership Training

Training Day started with a hearty breakfast buffet and corporate worship. CWA leaders and guests moved into a separate training room where they heard from CEO and President of CWA Penny Nance, Director of Field Operations Michelle Minor, and Rep. Laurel Libby (R-Maine). They also participated in discussion groups divided by interest and positions of leadership.

A yummy lunch was served in a combined forum with YWA and CWA who heard from Linda McMahon, Secretary of Education, and a panel discussion about CWA's core issue of "Standing with Israel" led by Faith Ozenbaugh, National Director, YWA, including Karen Ben Yehuda, Israeli Tour Guide and Advocacy Speaker, Ana-Sofia Santiago Russe, YWA Ambassador, Ren Porch, YWA Ambassador, Grace Herold, YWA Ambassador, and Teresa Pregnall, CWA Board Member and State Director of Virginia.

Following lunch, CWA returned to the training room and watched a panel discussion on "Engaging Pastors and Churches" led by Mario Diaz, CWA's COO and General Counsel, Teresa Pregnall and Michelle Minor. Field Engagement Specialists Nickie McCarty and Jennifer Pendleton discussed "How to Communicate CWA" utilizing NFC devices, the "Who is CWA in 30 • 5 • 15," and writing e-alerts and op-eds. Lastly, Kathy Meckley, Virginia PAL and 2025 PAL of the Year, Kayleen Marshall, State Director of Illinois, and Kenda Bartlett, 31-year veteran of CWA, discussed "How to Build a Thriving Prayer/Action Chapter."

The evening wrapped up with the Red, White and True Gala where special guest and keynote speaker, Eric Metaxas, responded to the tragic events of the week and encouraged the CWA mission for the future, "The Lord created you for this war. You are created to win this war—not to be on the sidelines or to pretend there is no war."



2025 State Directors

Day #3

Saturday

Saturday morning breakfast began early with Spirit-filled corporate praise and worship. The combined CWA/YWA/Ministry Partner event hosted Ronen and Orna Neutra, parents of the deceased Hamas victim, Omer, who shared their heart-wrenching story and the hope they have for the future of Israel. Vanessa Sivage, President of Protect Texas Children, and Megan Basham, journalist and author, emboldened listeners with their stories of faith and courage. Lastly, Penny cast a vision for the future of CWA, announcing her plans to begin a college tour program and a call to join in prayer to double CWA engagement over the next 10 years.

For God and His Glory!

"Enlarge the place of your tent; Stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, do not hold back; Lengthen your cords And strengthen your pegs."

Isaiah 54:2



Awards

2025 STATE DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Linda Schauer, South Dakota

"South Dakota is stronger, freer, and more rooted in the values we hold dear. Her contribution cannot be measured in laws alone, but in the generations of children, families, and communities who will thrive because of her courage and dedication." **South Dakota Speaker of the House Jon Hansen**

For 25 years, Linda has dedicated her heart, time, and unwavering commitment to CWA. She has built a legacy of faithfulness and impact that inspires us all.



Congratulations to these women who are going above and beyond to impact the culture for Christ through prayer, education, and advocacy!

Outstanding Prayer/Action Chapter Coordinator

Sue Simmons, New Mexico

Sue Simmons is described as "the glue that holds so many pieces together. Her dedication to our Prayer/Action Chapter Leaders is unmatched, and her faithfulness has helped strengthen the entire network across our state. She doesn't seek the spotlight – she simply shows up, serves well, and makes others feel capable and supported."

Outstanding Legislative Liaison

Rochelle Conner, California

According to State Director of California, Marlo Tucker, **Rochelle Conner** is "a warrior for righteousness—clear-headed, articulate, and fiercely committed to truth. She brings not only policy expertise, but spiritual depth and moral clarity. It is a privilege to work alongside her."

Servant's Heart Award

Debbie McCool, Kentucky

Debbie McCool, Johnson County Prayer/Action Chapter Leader, has a cheerful spirit and deep love for God that are matched only by her willingness. She exemplifies what it means to live for a mission bigger than herself, leading by example, encouraging others, and saying "yes" to opportunities that make a difference.

Outstanding Encourage-A-Legislator Coordinator

Erin Chautin, Louisiana

"I can confidently say that **Erin Chautin** embodies the heart of this ministry. Her faith is unwavering, her leadership is thoughtful and steady, and she consistently goes above and beyond. She is not only a dependable coordinator, but also an inspiration to all of us," states Laura Huber, State Director of Louisiana.

Outstanding Prayer/Action Chapter Leader

Kathy Meckley, Virginia

Kathy Meckley started quietly in 2022 but is leaving an impact wherever she goes. Her chapter is a thriving, prayer-driven, action-focused group. Her members don't just attend—they influence their communities, build relationships with pregnancy centers, participate in pro-life events, speak at school board meetings, and prioritize prayer and action.

Steadfast and Immovable

Karen Pennington, Colorado

Karen Pennington, State Director of Colorado, does not give up, regardless of how liberal the opposition, how long a committee keeps her waiting to testify, or how many times she has to rewrite an e-alert to hold back the darkness. She is steadfast and immovable!



Congratulations!

Tamara Scott, State Director of Iowa, for 20 years of service; **Mary Smith**, Area Director of Texas, for 10 years of service; and **Laura Huber**, State Director of Louisiana, for 5 years of service!

THE EFFECTIVE PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN CAN ACCOMPLISH MUCH. JAMES 5:16B



Join us in praying for Speaker of the House Mike Johnson.



Join us in praying for President of the United States Donald Trump.

PRAYER

Praise God for what He is going to do the rest of the year. There are many battles to be won, but we know that in Christ, there is hope even in the most hopeless situations. *"I will praise You forever for what You have done; in Your name I will hope, for Your name is good. I will praise You in the presence of Your saints."* Psalm 52:9

Pray that God will continue to stir the hearts of people and move others to become involved with CWA as part of God's army in defending Christian values. *"What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?"* –Romans 8:31

ACTION

Prepare to participate in the Encourage-A-Legislator Program by reviewing the EAL Program Manual, building your teams and pray for participation. The EAL program is two-fold, it ensures consistent prayer for legislators, and it makes the way to build bridges with legislators from both sides of the aisle.

"First of all, then, I exhort that petitions and prayers, requests and thanksgivings, be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth." –1 Timothy 2:1–4