



CONCERNED WOMEN *for* AMERICA OF SOUTH DAKOTA

S P R I N G 2 0 2 6

POINTS *from* PIERRE



The 2026 South Dakota Legislative Session began on January 13 and ended on Veto Day, March 30. State Director Linda Schauer and Legislative Liaison Lisa Gennaro represented your interests throughout the 38-day session. Each bill considered was aligned with one of CWA's core issues: sanctity of life, education, religious liberty, sexual exploitation, defense of family, national sovereignty, or support for Israel. All bills, actions, and legislative information can be accessed at sdlegislature.gov. If you have any questions, feel free to phone **Linda at (605) 380-6914**.

Governor Rhoden signs pro-life bills into law.

SANCTITY OF LIFE

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”
— Genesis 1:27

This was a banner year for the Sanctity of Life. Great bills were brought forth, and most were passed. CWA works to defend all life from conception to natural death.

Education in Prenatal Growth and Development

HB 1313 require education in prenatal human growth and development also known as the “Baby Olivia” bill. It doesn't specifically require the [Baby Olivia video](#), produced by [Live Action](#), but it must be a high-definition ultrasound video and/or high-quality, computer-generated graphics showing the progress of human development. Other requirements are:

- It must be at least three minutes in length.
- Age-appropriate
- Research-based
- It must NOT include any material from an entity that performs, refers to, or promotes abortion, contracts with or affiliates with such entities.

Students learn about the growth of seeds into plants and the beginnings of frogs and butterflies. We believe it is crucial to learn about God's miracle of human life as well. Human development videos bring biology and health education to new heights while filling a gap that public curriculum has lacked for decades. Students enjoy a detailed, realistic view of development from conception to birth, offering a picture-perfect view of a miracle.

Lisa Gennaro testified, “This curriculum helps young people grasp the incredible womb journey—not politically, but as an empowering scientific fact—fostering deep appreciation for biology's wonders in a positive, loving light.”

There are few things more marvelous than the beginnings of life itself, and the more we dwell on its beauty, the more we should cherish not only life in the womb, but our own lives as well.

Position: Support
Status: Passed

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Mail Order Abortion Drugs

HB1274 *prohibit the dispensing, distribution, sale, or advertisement of certain articles or things for purposes of an unlawful abortion and provide a ... penalty ...*

Since South Dakota bans abortion, both surgical and chemical, these dangerous and unregulated mail-order abortion pills are illegally coming into our state via the mail. About 60% of abortions are committed with this two-regimen do-it-yourself process. This illegal act disregards the established safeguards and oversight by a medical professional for ectopic pregnancy or other contraindications or screening for coercion, abuse, or trafficking situations. HB1274 narrows the scope and purpose by providing our Attorney General with the laws he needs to criminalize and penalize the distributors of the abortion pills.

Position: Support
Status: Passed

“Life of the Mother” Clarified

HB1257 *amend the definition of an abortion, clarifying what is NOT an abortion. Because South Dakota bans abortions except for the life of the mother, the pro-abortion lobby groups are claiming there is confusion in the medical community when providing medical care for miscarriages, ectopic pregnancies, etc. HB1257 makes the distinction that treatment for miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy is not “abortion.” Women will continue to receive essential medical care.*

Position: Support
Status: Passed

Conscience Protection for Health Care Workers

HB1153 *protect certain rights of healthcare providers. This bill would have protected health care professionals and medical students who have strong pro-life convictions from being required to dispense drugs or provide a procedure that would violate their conscience.*

Position: Support
Status: Failed

Human Embryo Reporting

HB1182 *establish a data collection system pertaining to assisted reproductive technology and to provide a penalty... . Life begins at conception, and the state is concerned about each one. Technology has enabled the creation of human life in a laboratory, which can be implanted, frozen, researched, or discarded. The state has an interest in collecting data regarding the disposition of those embryos.*

Position: Support
Status: Failed

Criminalize the Abortive Mother

HB1212 *revise provisions ... to strengthen protections or unborn children. For decades, the pro-life community has agreed that we would never criminalize the woman for having an abortion, but rather the abortion provider. HB1212 would have criminalized the woman. We believe this bill was the wrong tool to curb the scourge of abortion. Abortion-minded women need truth and compassion, not criminalization. We opposed HB1212 and were pleased to see its defeat in committee.*

Position: Oppose
Status: Failed

Defining Man and Woman in State Law

HB1184 *define man and woman throughout the state and prohibit funding for anything to the contrary. HB1184 would restore clarity and a biological reality and ensure that definitions of “boy,” “father,” “female,” “girl,” “male,” “man,” “mother,” “sex,” and “woman” would be reflected in birth certificates, driver’s licenses, and our laws.*

Position: Support
Status: Passed

NOTE To confirm the constitutionality of HB1184, on March 5, the South Dakota Supreme Court ruled that “citizens cannot alter the sex or name written on their birth certificate unless an error was made at the time of birth.” This case stems from a challenge by a biological male who identifies as a “transgender woman.” The court stressed that “keeping accurate records of an individual’s sex is a ‘legitimate government purpose.’” Read more [here](#).

DEFENSE OF FAMILY

“Fix these words of Mine in your hearts and minds; ... Teach them to your children.” –Deuteronomy 11:18-19

HB1275 *create requirements for age verification and parental consent for application stores HB1275 would give parents more control over what apps their children can download and access on their phones and other devices.*

Position: Support
Status: Failed

READ Lisa Gennaro’s published op-ed, [“Let’s Empower Parents to Protect Kids”](#) Online on our website at sd.cwfa.org.

Encourage-A-Legislator

“I urge, then, that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made ... for kings and all those in authority...” –1 Timothy 2:1

Our Encourage-A-Legislator (EAL) program is a great story to tell. The program is currently covering more than 2,235 state legislators nationwide, including all 105 legislators in South Dakota! Here is Sen. Carl Perry (R-District 3–Brown County) with CWA of South Dakota State Director Linda Schauer. He has saved every EAL card he has received over the years. He loves them and is always encouraged by reading them—often even displaying them on his desk.



HB1116 prohibit a video streaming service from transmitting certain advertising during children’s programming ... This would prevent inappropriate ads from children’s content on their devices.

Position: Support
Status: Failed

SB190 codify the rights of parents. Parents know what is best for their children. Barring any abuse or neglect, this would protect parents’ rights regarding their children’s medical care, education, and related matters.

Position: Support
Status: Failed

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

“Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy; Free them from the hand of the wicked.” –Psalm 82:3-4

SB44 establish investigative subpoena authority to gather business records ... Sexual predators are using the internet to groom, abuse, and traffic children. SB44 would give law enforcement the ability to gather evidence from the predator’s computer more quickly before he victimizes more children.

Position: Support
Status: Passed

SB41 revise a provision related to criminal invasions of privacy, prohibit the creation and distribution of digitally fabricated material of an identifiable individual, and provide penalties therefor. Prohibit the creation and distribution of digital material (AI), using someone’s face, created to cause harm.

Position: Support
Status: Passed

HB1300 An Act to except victims of human trafficking or domestic abuse from certain clemency notice requirements. This gives clemency to victims and refrains from making their names public so their traffickers cannot find them.

Position: Support
Status: Passed

NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

“But let justice roll on like a river, and righteousness like a never-failing stream!” –Amos 5:24

Article V Constitutional Convention

SJR503 applying to the United States Congress for a convention of the states to propose amendments to the United States Constitution ... This was an application to Congress for an Article V Constitutional Convention, a.k.a. Convention of States (COS) or con con. CWA of South Dakota has faithfully worked against this assault on our U.S. Constitution for over 12 years. There is nothing wrong with our Constitution; it just needs to be obeyed. It is too risky to open the Constitution. SJR503 passed in the Senate, but failed in the House.

Position: Oppose
Status: Failed

Read our brochure and push card on this topic [here](#) and [here](#).

SJR502 applying to the United States Congress under Article V of the United States Constitution ... fixing the number of justices of the United States Supreme Court at one chief justice and eight associate justices. SJR502 is another Article V Constitutional Convention. This one would limit the number of Supreme Court Justices to nine (where it currently is). This measure would still open the Constitution to whatever the delegates desire or whatever the popular topic might be. Delegates could change the number of Justices to 5, 13, or 23.

Position: Oppose
Status: Failed

HB1196 participation of delegates from this state in an Article V convention. HB1196 attempted to establish rules for delegates to a Constitutional Convention from our state. However, under the Constitution, Congress is to control the event, not the states.

Position: Oppose
Status: Failed

MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM—TRUTH!

Jesus answered, “I Am the Way, and the Truth and the Life.” –John 14:6



Jesus said, “The truth shall set you free.” Recently, court cases and significant events have led to some sense of freedom for children, parents, medical personnel, and teachers in this period of evil exemplified by “gender transitioning” of our young people.

The first known court victory in a “detransitioner’s” malpractice lawsuit against doctors ended in a \$2 million award to a now 22-year-old woman who had her breasts amputated at the age of 16.

The woman’s attorney blamed the psychologist who had given this minor the ideas that led to her surgery, which the then 16-year-old said she soon regretted and believed was wrong. Her mother, also driven by the psychologist, had feared her daughter would commit suicide if the surgery did not happen. According to a journalist who attended the weeks-long hearings, at least 28 “detransitioner” cases are awaiting trial.

Cases like the previous one appear to be having an effect on the medical community, as the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), on February 4, followed by the American Medical Association (AMA) on February 5, released decisions NOT to recommend sex-rejecting procedures for children and youth under age 19. The Washington Post, reporting on a JAMA study, stated, “Gender transition procedures nearly tripled from 2016 to 2020... The vast majority got puberty blockers or hormones, and surgery was rare.” [But from 2016 to 2023, chest surgeries rose to 3,215, and genital surgeries rose to 405.](#)

On February 23, [Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee \(CWALAC\) commended](#) Rep. Bob Onder (R-Missouri 3rd) for introducing the “Chloe Cole Act” to protect minors from medical transgender interventions, including puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, or surgical procedures. This bill places full liability on clinics and hospitals, and would give a private right-of-action to those who have been harmed. “... No child should face the irreversible harms of chemical or surgical mutilation under the guise of ‘gender-affirming care,’” said Penny Nance, CEO and President, CWALAC. Chloe Cole is a 21-year-old woman who is suing Kaiser-Permanente healthcare for what she says is a lack of informed consent or proper psychological evaluation when she was 13-15 years old and was given puberty blockers, testosterone, and a double mastectomy.



The natural, sacred bond between parent and child was affirmed at the Supreme Court in a case, *Mirabelli v. Bonta*, in a 6-3 decision on March 3. It took [Thomas More Society](#), a legal group, along with backing from CWALAC, 14 family policy groups, other legal and family advocacy organizations—and even former U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese III—over three years to attain this victory against the secretive “gender transitioning” of minor students, which was made law in 2024 in California schools. Justices cited unconstitutionality under the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment and the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The Court found that California has no right to cut parents out of their own children’s lives, nor require teachers to keep the child’s “transitioning” a secret from the parents. This now gives the pro-family attorneys the power they need at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, where cases from additional states will determine if parents, students, and teachers will be protected in all states.

Truth has no pendulum.

Truth is God’s steady, unchanging morality for mankind. Thankfully, the pendulum of protection for children has begun to swing back a little closer to God’s creation story: “Male and female He created them.”

CWA Membership State & National: A donation of \$25 or more has TWO benefits: membership in CWA of South Dakota and membership in CWA national. All donations given to CWA of South Dakota remain in South Dakota for state projects. Write your check out to “Concerned Women for America,” put “CWA of SD” on the memo line, and send in the envelope provided. Or, [GIVE ONLINE](#). Your renewed annual membership/additional donation is greatly appreciated. All donations sent to CWA national in response to their mailings are utilized in Washington, D.C. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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