



CONCERNED CITIZEN

February 2008

A publication of Concerned Women for America of California
CWA is the nation's largest public policy women's organization

AROUND THE STATE

Protect Marriage Now!

Action: Please join us in the effort to place the language of Prop 22 in the California Constitution through the California Marriage Protection Act (CMPA). Do not delay. Get your petitions today and return them promptly.

Churches throughout the state are planning petition drives to help reach the lofty, yet achievable, goal of one million signatures by April 1. Why not launch a "Valentine's Day for Marriage" drive at your church this month? You can download a simple "[How To](#)" document to plan your petition drive on our website's "Help Protect Marriage in California" section at <http://ca.cwfa.org>. There is also a [document](#) to help allay any concerns about whether or not churches may participate in initiative efforts – and they certainly may!

Our website also links to the official website for the broad coalition supporting this crucial effort (www.protectmarriage.com). There you may request petitions and download informative documents to help explain the importance of the CMPA for the future of California's families. There is also a link for [petition centers throughout the state](#) where CMPA petitions may be picked up and returned. Contact ProtectMarriage.com at (951) 354-8362 to find out how your church can help by becoming a petition center.

Committee Kills Conservative Bills

As bills from last year's session fought to stay alive by completing their journey through the legislature in January, the Senate Health Committee dealt a death blow to the two important measures we encouraged you to take action on last month. Votes were along party lines. Assemblyman John

Benoit's (R-Riverside) Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act (AB 1009) failed, as did Assemblyman Bob Huff's (R-Diamond Bar) abstinence education bill (AB 708). There is some encouragement even in defeat. The number of individuals submitting letters to the committee on the abstinence bill was much higher than normal. If you sent a letter, thank you!

New bills for 2008 may be introduced until

February 23. Please check our [Targeted Bills list](#) for current status, talking points and sample letters on key bills throughout this year's session. See one newly introduced measure below.

Marriage-Lite Bill Returns

A new session does not necessarily mean new ideas. SB 1066, just introduced by Sen. Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) is a re-hash of last year's SB 11. The bill extends California domestic partnerships to any two persons

who share a common residence and are over 18. This means that all marriage benefits would be given to mere roommates, who are unwilling to take the step of commitment of marriage but want all of its privileges.

The California legislature has already given away marriage benefits to same-sex couples without the consent of the people by passing existing domestic partnership laws. Migden asserts that SB 1066 is "a very practical expansion that absolutely reflects the new family unit today." In reality it is an expensive experiment with California's children, who are at greater risk of abuse, behavioral problems and poor academic performance in cohabitating situations. The bill creates a situation ripe for fraud as employers providing domestic partner benefits would be forced to extend insurance and various other advantages to cohabitants of their employees.

Action: SB 1066 will be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Since a hearing is not likely until late February, you may mail your letter to Senate Judiciary Committee, State Capitol, Room 2187, Sacramento, CA 95814, or fax it to the Senate Judiciary Committee at (916) 445-8390. Please ask the committee not to further undermine marriage and to protect children from the detrimental effects of cohabitation by opposing this bill. Check our [bill list](#) for talking points and a sample letter.

Our Founders' Wisdom

The cause of America is in a great measure the cause of all mankind.
~ Thomas Paine

Please honor the privilege granted to you as a citizen of this great nation.

Vote February 5!

How Do I Find It?

- ◆ Go to our website: <http://ca.cwfa.org>
- ◆ Click the "Targeted Bills 2008" link
- ◆ Scroll through to check all the key bills, their status and the action you can take!
- ◆ Download sample letters and talking points

Need to find your state legislators?

Go to: <http://leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>

You can also check your phone book or call your local Registrar of Voters' office.

Help Protect Girls from Sexual Abuse

A new parental notification effort is underway. This provides an opportunity for you to help ensure that girls have the all-important counsel of their parents before undergoing a major surgical procedure and one that often has long-term emotional and physical consequences. Notification also protects girls from sexual abuse at the hands of predators wishing to cover their tracks by taking a minor girl for an abortion without a parent's knowledge. The "Child and Teen Safety and Stop Predators Act" is also known as "Sarah's Law." This state constitutional amendment would require notification (not consent) of a parent 48 hours prior to a minor's abortion. To answer objections raised by the opposition campaign during a prior initiative, Sarah's Law allows notification of another adult relative over 21 if parental abuse is involved. The measure allows for a judicial waiver as well.

Action: "Sarah's Law" needs over one million signatures by March 30. Please visit www.friendsofsarah.com to obtain petitions and get more information. Our daughters must be protected!

THE NATIONAL SCENE

Call in for Decency on February 5

CWA is joining a nationwide effort to ask Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nevada) to bring the "Protecting Children from Indecent Programming Act" (S. 1780) to the Senate floor. S. 1780 is a simple bipartisan measure introduced by Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-West Virginia) that would solidify the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) policy against "fleeting" expletives and images. Last June, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals sent FCC indecency rulings involving such occurrences (an f-word by Cher during a 2002 awards show being one of them) back to the commission for further review calling the FCC action "arbitrary and capricious."

FCC Chairman Kevin Martin defended the commission's crackdown on expletives saying, "I find it hard to believe that the New York court would tell American families that [expletives deleted] are fine to say on broadcast television during the hours when children are most likely to be in the audience." S. 1780's language will help remove ambiguity in broadcast standards by requiring the FCC to "maintain a policy that a single word or image may be considered indecent."

Action: On February 5, please call Sen. Boxer at (202) 224-3553 and Sen. Feinstein at (202) 224-3841 as part of a nationwide call-in

campaign. Simply ask them to urge Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid to bring S. 1780 to the floor. Our families must be protected from increasingly objectionable programming, and this is a reasonable bipartisan effort to help do just that. If you miss the call-in, please do not feel your call later in the month will not be effective. Our senators need to hear your concerns.

QUICK TAKES & UPDATES

CWA Names State Legislator of the Year –

Our recent Culture Conference in Newport Beach earned rave reviews from participants who enjoyed a special time of learning, networking and being equipped for action on crucial issues. During the event State Sen. Tom Harman was named CWA's 2007 State Legislator of the Year for his outspoken support of key family issues and legislation protecting children, supporting parental rights and controlling illegal immigration.

Christian School Victorious in Court Battle –

Riverside County Superior Court Judge Gloria Trask found "no triable issues" in claims of discrimination by two junior girls and their parents leveled against California Lutheran High School in Wildomar. The girls had been expelled for suspicion of homosexual relationship inconsistent with the school's Christian code of conduct. The ruling was a victory for the First Amendment's freedom of association.

PRAYER POWER

Praise God for the many churches supporting the California Marriage Protection Act by serving as petition centers and participating in petition drives. God has ordained the marriage relationship, which has served as the foundation of society for thousands of years. Pray that hundreds of pastors and church leaders would faithfully support the CMPA in coming weeks. *"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." (Ephesians 5:31)*

As this new legislative session begins, pray for God to give wisdom to our state senators and assemblymembers as they make decisions that will impact the people of our state for years to come. May He draw to Himself those who do not recognize Him as Lord and embolden those who do to speak the truth and honor it in all their work. *Blessed are they who maintain justice, who constantly do what is right. (Psalm 106:3)*

Make a difference by getting involved with CWA!

To find out how to join a local Prayer/Action Chapter or get more information about CWA of California, call our office at (626) 227-4266 or e-mail director@california.cwfa.org. To become one of CWA's over 500,000 members nationwide, please send a tax-deductible gift of \$25 or more to CWA of California, P.O. Box 660894, Arcadia, CA 91066

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____