



CONCERNED CITIZEN

January 2008

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

AROUND THE STATE

They're Baaaack!

The California legislature reconvenes for the second year of this biennial session on January 7. Bills that initially failed but were granted reconsideration or were placed on the shelf by their authors at the end of the 2007 legislative year have one last chance to survive if they complete their paths through their houses of origin by the end of January. We tracked a number of bills that are now in this category. They are located on our "Legislative Limbo" list. As these measures are scheduled for hearings or votes we will move them to our new "Targeted Bills" list for 2008. Two such bills are discussed below. Legislators may also begin introducing new bills this month. Visit our website's legislation section to see these lists, check current status, view talking points and download sample letters. Go to <http://ca.cwfa.org>.

Fetal Pain Bill Returns

California's version of the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act will be heard in the Assembly Health Committee on January 8. Assemblyman John Benoit's AB 1009 requires physicians performing abortions after an unborn child can feel pain (estimated at 20 weeks) to offer anesthesia to the pregnant woman prior to performing the abortion. Please check our bill list for the hearing outcome.

Abstinence Measure Seeks Second Chance

Assemblyman Bob Huff's (R-Diamond Bar) AB 708 failed its first hearing last year, but will be heard in the Assembly Health Committee again on

January 15. California follows a "comprehensive" sex education model and is the only state to have never participated in the federal abstinence grant program. Planned Parenthood and other "safe sex" backers oppose AB 708, but the bill does not replace current programs. It merely requires the State Department of Public Health to develop and implement a *supplemental* program of abstinence education using funds available through the federal government.

A study published in September's *Californian Journal of Health Promotion* notes that nearly one in four young men and women between the ages of 15 and 24 have been infected by just eight specific sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) studied (and there are many others). As the report states, these diseases "can have considerable and long-lasting impact on the health and quality of life of individuals, in the form of infertility, ectopic pregnancies, dyspareunia, cancer, and increased susceptibility to HIV." Researchers also note that because reporting is not always complete and many STDs can be asymptomatic, the problem is likely much worse.

California's children deserve real tools to help them abstain from premarital sex – the only real

protection against STDs.

Action: *Please pray for the success of AB 708 in its **January 15** hearing and fax a letter of support to the Assembly Health Committee (916-319-2197) and Assemblyman Huff (916-319-2160). See our "Targeted Bills" list for a [sample letter](#).*

We Need YOU to Help Protect Marriage

As we await the tabulation of signatures submitted for the SB 777 referendum, we thank you once again for your assistance and ask you to pray for success. Next on the agenda for a grassroots effort is an even larger goal for the **California Marriage Protect Act (MPA)**. To protect the definition of marriage from judicial interference the MPA will place the language from Prop 22 in the California Constitution as an amendment: "Only marriage between and man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." Because this initiative is a constitutional amend-

Our Founders' Wisdom

[L]et it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers just men who will rule in the fear of God . . . [I]f the citizens neglect this duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted.

~ Noah Webster

Exercise your right to vote!

**Presidential primary
election**

February 5, 2008

**Voter Registration
Deadline:**

January 22, 2008

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.

ment, the signature threshold is high – over 700,000 valid signatures will be needed to qualify for the November ballot with an estimated one million needed to ensure validity.

It is crucial that churches become involved in this effort, as so many did with the SB 777 referendum. Remember, it is perfectly permissible for churches to participate in initiative efforts, and you can help your pastor and church leaders by organizing the effort with their permission. In the "Initiatives and Elections" section of our website we have simple step-by-step instructions outlining "How to Conduct a Petition Drive." Download these to start the process right away!

Action: California Marriage Protection Act petitions are available now! Please visit the official website at www.protectmarriage.com and click "petitions" to order forms online or call (951) 354-8362. San Diego residents may learn more about petition drive efforts in their area at <http://protectmarriagesd.com/>. This site also provides a valuable resource titled "God's Design for Marriage." (Note: We will have petitions at our state conference later this month. Sign up for the conference before the January 15 registration deadline.)

THE NATIONAL SCENE

Brownback Bills Affirm Life

On January 23 CWA's grassroots Project 535 lobby team will be in Washington, D.C. to support two life-affirming bills by Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kansas). The Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act (S. 356) requires doctors to inform women seeking abortions after 20 weeks about the pain their unborn child may experience and offer anesthesia. On his website, Sen. Brownback notes, "It is time to look at the unborn child, and recognize that it is really a young human, who can feel pain and should be treated with care.

The Ultrasound Informed Consent Act (S. 2075) requires medical staff to perform an ultrasound on a pregnant woman seeking an abortion. Prior to her giving informed consent, she must be given an explanation of the ultrasound results and provided an opportunity to view the images (there is no requirement that she view the ultrasound).

Action: Please contact our U.S. senators prior to January 23 and ask them to support the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act (S. 356) and the Ultrasound Informed Consent Act (S. 2075). Call Sen. Boxer at (202) 224-3553 and Sen. Feinstein at (202) 224-3841 or visit www.senate.gov and click "senators" for web mail links.

Last call! Don't miss CWA of California's Culture Conference

**Friday evening and Saturday
January 25 - 26, 2008**

Join us at the beautiful Fairmont Newport Beach for great speakers and a wonderful Saturday luncheon

Registration deadline is January 15!

Go inside the issues with national experts including...

CWA President Wendy Wright
Matt Barber, CWA Policy Director for Cultural Issues
David Kupelian, author of *The Marketing of Evil*
Michael Cutler, Center for Immigration Studies
Roy Beck, President NumbersUSA

Conference is just \$85 for all materials and our luncheon on Saturday.

**Download a complete brochure and registration form at <http://ca.cwfa.org>.
No Internet? Call (626) 227-4266.**

QUICK TAKES & UPDATES

Voter Registration Deadline Nears – Find out how to conduct a voter registration drive at your church by visiting the "Initiatives and Elections" section of our website (<http://ca.cwfa.org>). Registration forms must be postmarked by January 22 to vote in the February 5 presidential primary.

Human Life Is Precious – Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is January 20. Please ask your church to recognize this important event.

PRAYER POWER

Praise God for the outpouring of support for the SB 777 referendum from His people and their churches. Ask God to impress upon His people their obligation to be salt and light in our culture, whether sharing His love and precepts in their families and communities or in such efforts as protecting His institution of marriage and the sanctity of human life. May He grant us wisdom and direct our paths. *You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden . . . Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5: 14, 16)*

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

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