



CONCERNED CITIZEN

June 2008

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

AROUND THE STATE

Marriage Amendment Qualifies for Ballot

We are delighted to inform you that the California Marriage Protection Act (CMPA) *has officially qualified for the November ballot!* We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you who collected signatures, donated funds, and were any part of this unprecedented effort. Now the burden is on all of us to share the truth about the value of traditional marriage in our spheres of influence and encourage our pastors to speak boldly in support of God's design for the family as November approaches.

Pray for a Stay

In a stunning example of judicial overreach, the California Supreme Court declared the people's will in defining marriage as between a man and a woman unconstitutional on May 15. In one bold strike at the very core of the family, four of the seven justices defied logic to create a "right" to marry that cannot, once implemented, reasonably deny that "right" to any relationship.

A number of pro-family organizations have requested a stay, or delay, of the ruling's implementation until after the November election when the people will be able to uphold the traditional, historical and Biblical definition of marriage in California. Absent the stay, same-sex couples could begin "marrying" on June 17 and, with no residency requirement for marriage here, the national ramifications will be swiftly felt. Realizing the potential effect on their states, attorneys general from ten other states have recently joined with traditional marriage proponents here in asking the court to stay its ruling pending the people's vote.

Meanwhile, California's Atty. Gen. Jerry Brown,

Our Founders' Wisdom

The church must take right ground in regards to politics ...
God cannot sustain this free and blessed country, which we love and pray for, unless the church will take right ground.

~ Charles Finney

America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.

~ President Abraham Lincoln

whose office offered a feeble defense of Prop 22 before the Supreme Court, has now filed a brief asking the Court to implement their ruling "without delay" saying, "It is time for these proceedings to end."

UPDATE: The request for stay was denied on June 4.

Action: Join us for a Day of Prayer and Fasting for Marriage on June 17. Then, please do your part to stay engaged in this battle and encourage others to do so as well. To find out how, visit www.protectmarriage.com where you will find regular updates and resources.

Protect Students with an SB 777 Petition Drive

Looking ahead to the 2010 ballot, another vitally important initiative campaign continues to collect signatures. The SB 777 initiative will overturn last year's law requiring California schools to treat homosexuality, bisexuality and transgenderism as morally equivalent to normal heterosexual behavior by prohibiting schools from showing any "discriminatory bias" in activities, programs and instruction.

Action: Please visit www.saveourkids.net for more information and downloadable petition forms. Download our "How to Conduct a Petition Drive at Your Church" in our "Initiatives and Elections" section to help organize an effort at your church well before the July 31 deadline.

Bills Move to Second House

There was good news as the first half of this year's legislative session passed. Two bills we opposed died quietly in Appropriations Committee suspense files: AB 2943, the bill to ban spanking with an implement, and SB 1066, the expansion of domestic partnership benefits to any two persons in a "committed relationship." Your contacts with committee members and the efforts of our Lobby Day participants, who met with all committee members hearing the "anti-spanking" bill, were instrumental in the demise of these measures.

You can see more bills, both good and bad, that did not survive their house of origin on our website's "Bill Graveyard" list. Bills we are tracking that have passed their house of origin are shown on our "Targeted Bills" list, and we will be adding addition-

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.

al measures to this list in coming weeks as bills start the journey through the second house and committee assignments and hearings proceed. They must be through policy committees by the end of June. If the budget is settled, legislators will then adjourn to their districts for the July recess.

Assisted Suicide Precursor Passes Assembly

AB 2747, by Assemblymembers Patty Berg (D-Santa Rosa) and Lloyd Levine (D-Van Nuys), passed the Assembly on a 42-34 vote that included two Democrats among the opposition, with four not voting. The bill is sponsored by the same organization that sponsored the failed assisted suicide measure that we fought last year, Compassion and Choices (formerly the Hemlock Society). AB 2747 requires medical personnel to give "terminal" patients all end-of-life options, including "voluntary cessation of eating and drinking," yet fails to require psychological counseling, even when many people in this situation are understandably depressed. While careful pain management and palliative care at the end of a truly terminal illness are extremely important and support must be given to dying patients and their families, this bill, as written, is a step down a very slippery slope toward assisted suicide.

Action: *AB 2747 is currently in the Senate Rules Committee awaiting assignment. We will update our bill list with a sample committee letter as soon as that assignment is made. In the meantime, please ask your state senator to oppose AB 2747 so that we may raise awareness on this dangerous bill. Complete talking points and a sample letter are on our website's bill list.*

THE NATIONAL SCENE

Defending Sovereignty, Not Agendas

When the Senate reconvenes June 2, Sen. Carl Levin (D-Michigan) will likely try to give special rights to homosexuals by sneaking "hate crimes" legislation into the Senate Defense Authorization bill. This tactic was tried last year and was pulled out of the conference report at the insistence of House Republican leadership. The defense spending bill is intended to protect our national sovereignty, not an activist agenda.

Action: *Please call, fax or e-mail Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer and ask them to oppose tacking unrelated issues onto the Defense Authorization bill. Contact information: Sen. Boxer, Phone (202) 224-3553, Fax (415) 956-6701. Sen. Feinstein, Phone (202) 224-3841, Fax (202) 228-3954. Visit www.senate.gov and click "senators" for web mail links.*

Join the Rally for Life in Sacramento!

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

On the West Steps of the State Capitol

Join the rally to help ask for the elimination of abortion funding. A recent Gallup poll shows a continuing pro-life trend with 71 percent of Americans wishing to have abortion illegal or legal only in rare circumstances. It is time our state budget reflected the will of its people.

Lobby training and orientation will begin at 10:00 a.m. with legislative visits from 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. For more details, please visit www.california4life.org or call Coalition for Women & Children (916) 955-1577

QUICK TAKES & UPDATES

Colorado Stuns Nation with "Bathroom" Bill

In a move one might expect more from our own legislature, Colorado lawmakers passed, and their governor has signed, a bill prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in a host of areas, including schools, businesses, lodging, associations, clubs and *all public accommodations*. Yes, SB 200 gives people of either sex access to all public accommodations. "Henceforth, every woman and little girl will have to fear that a predator, bisexual, cross-dresser or even a homosexual or heterosexual male might walk in and relieve himself in their presence," noted Dr. James Dobson, founder and chairman of Colorado-based Focus on the Family. The bill closes with the statement, "[T]his act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety." Might we suggest that this may not hold true in the ladies' room?

PRAYER POWER

Thank God for raising up an army of volunteers to provide so many of the signatures to place His definition of marriage on the November ballot. May He bless the pastors who took bold stands for the Truth as they supported this unprecedented campaign and will continue to do so as we march toward a history-making moment in November. Ask Him to meet every need to ensure victory. *The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. (Isaiah 58:11)*

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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