



CONCERNED CITIZEN

May 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 Signatures Exceed Goal

We have great news! The ProtectMarriage.com coalition, of which CWA of California is a part, presented 1,122,000 signatures for the California Marriage Protection Act (CMPA) to county registrars across the state last month. We are now awaiting the final count.

Thank you for your part in this unprecedented effort. This is truly a grassroots victory for marriage and family. Now the road to the ballot begins, and it will be incumbent upon our churches and their leadership to equip their congregations about the important role of marriage between a man and a woman for our children and our nation's future. Start now equipping yourselves to share the truth about the importance of marriage. Visit the "[Help Protect Marriage](#)" section of our website for helpful information and www.protectmarriage.com for updates on the CMPA campaign.

Bills Must Clear House of Origin in May

Measures must clear their house of origin by May 30 to proceed to the second house. In addition, all bills with fiscal implications must pass the Appropriations Committee by May 23 to survive and be sent to the floor. Many items are currently in what is known as the "suspense file" awaiting further review of pending bills as they relate to this year's budget. Some bills that have already fallen by the wayside are listed on our 2008 Bill Graveyard (see our website's legislation section).

Our "Targeted Bills" list is regularly updated as additional bills and amendments are reviewed and when measures are moved to the graveyard list. Sample letters, talking points and current status are available for the following key bills and more. *Please pray and act now!*

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.

Support Private School Tax Credit Bill Now!

AB 2605, by Assemblyman Alan Nakanishi (R-Lodi), authorizes an income tax credit of \$500 per child in grades K-12 to parents who choose to home school their children or send them to private primary or secondary school and meet income requirements. In many cases parents must pay for education twice, through their taxes and tuition,

because their local schools fall short academically and/or undermine their values.

Action: *AB 2605 will be considered on May 12. Please address your letter supporting this bill giving modest help to parents to: The Honorable Charles Calderon, Chair, Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee, 1020 N Street, Room 162, Sacramento, CA 95814. (Committee Fax: 916-319-2198)*

Our Founders' Wisdom

Why has government been instituted at all? Because the passions of men will not conform to the dictates of reason and justice without constraint.

~ Alexander Hamilton

A Slippery Slope to Assisted Suicide

AB 2747, by Assemblymembers Patty Berg (D-Santa Rosa) and Lloyd Levine (D-Van Nuys), requires health care providers, when making a diagnosis that a patient has a terminal illness or a prognosis that a patient has less than one year to live, to provide the patient with information regarding *all* legal end-of-life options, including withdrawal from curative treatment, palliative care and palliative sedation. The definition of "provider" includes nurse practitioners and physician assistants, who do not have the same background, training and experience as physicians and surgeons. Palliative sedation is defined as the "use of sedative medications to relieve extreme suffering by making the patient unaware and unconscious, and in some cases, involves the withholding of artificial food and hydration." AB 2747 is sponsored by the same organization that sponsored the failed assisted suicide measure in 2007, Compassion and Choices (formerly the Hemlock Society).

Action: *AB 2747 passed Judiciary Committee and can be heard on the Assembly floor at any time. Please ask your assemblymember to oppose AB 2747. Complete talking points and a sample letter are on our website's bill list.*

Spanking Bill Punishes Parents, Hurts Children

AB 2943, by Assemblywoman Sally Lieber (D-Mountain View), is a remake of last year's AB 755. The bill criminalizes spanking with an implement in California in terms that could be broadly interpreted and used to punish parents in their proper role of

using reasonable corporal punishment in disciplining their children. Of great concern are the children who are truly abused and how this measure will affect them. If law enforcement and social services are spread too thin by arresting and charging parents for disciplining their children in a loving manner, abused children will not receive the vital services they need to protect them from harm. From a fiscal standpoint, the increased caseload for child protective services, district attorneys and law enforcement will require additional funding for state and county services at a time when California is facing a budget crisis.

Action: *AB 2943 is currently in the Appropriations suspense file for review before May 23. Please send your letter of opposition to: The Honorable Mark Leno, Chairman, Assembly Appropriations Committee, State Capitol, Room 2114, Sacramento, CA 95814 (Committee Fax: 916-319-2181)*

SB 777 Initiative Gains Momentum

The recent referendum attempting to overturn last year's egregious SB 777 failed to garner enough signatures to qualify for this year's ballot due to the limited timeframe involved in referenda. Now we have another opportunity to change the law back to its prior language by qualifying an initiative to undo SB 777 on the 2010 ballot. Make no mistake. SB 777 was not about discrimination and harassment of students. Its provisions, now law, specifically target instruction, materials and school-sponsored activities (sports, homecoming, etc.) by prohibiting any "discriminatory bias" toward homosexuality, bisexuality and transgenderism, requiring these behaviors to be treated as equal to heterosexuality in every way.

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.*

Strickland Bills Help Budget

ACA 14 and ABx3 20, companion measures by Assemblywoman Audra Strickland (R-Westlake Village), will help save billions of dollars for our state's taxpayers by requiring proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency as a condition for individuals 18 years or older to receive non-emergency state-funded benefits including welfare, non-emergency medical care, and college tuition assistance.

Action: *These bills are languishing in the Rules Committee without assignments. Please ask Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez to move these bills*

forward and help our state's fiscal crisis. Send your letter to: The Honorable Fabian Nunez, Speaker California State Assembly, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 942849 (Fax: 916-319-2146)

THE NATIONAL SCENE

Stem Cell Bill Bridges Ethical Divide

Reps. Randy Forbes (R-Virginia) and Dan Lipinski (D-Illinois) introduced the **Patients First Act, H.R. 2807**. The bill seeks to promote research and human clinical trials using stem cells that are ethically obtained and show evidence of providing near-term clinical benefit for human patients, and to promote the creation of pluripotent stem cell lines without the creation of human embryos, or the destruction or discarding of human embryos.

Action: *Please call or e-mail your representatives and ask him or her to cosponsor H.R. 2807. Find your representative by zip code at www.house.gov or call (202) 224-3121. Send an e-mail by clicking "[Write Your Representative](#)."*

QUICK TAKES & UPDATES

Voter Registration and Election Information

The voter registration deadline for the June 3 primary election is May 19. Ask your pastor or other church leadership to schedule a voter registration drive on May 11 or 18 and consider the extra step of having new and existing voters sign up for permanent absentee ballots. You can fill out a form online to mail into your county registrar's office [here](#). For more information on how to conduct a voter registration drive, [see this link](#).

CWA's Lobby Day 2008 Gets Rave Reviews

Citizen lobbyists learned in the morning and walked the halls of the State Capitol in the afternoon on April 28, asking all members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee to oppose AB 2943, the spanking ban. Attendees enjoyed their opportunity to be part of the process, and we hope you will be part of this event next year.

PRAYER POWER

Pray that God's people will be encouraged by their pastors and the Holy Spirit Himself to fulfill their duty to participate in the electoral process and vote their values. An estimated 40 percent of evangelicals are not even registered to vote. Pray for an end to the apathy that plagues us in so many areas. *For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. (2 Chronicles 16:9)*

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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