

CWA of California
Action Alert
April 13, 2005

Dear Friend:

***Assisted suicide bill update:** We are sorry to report that [AB 654](#), which would legalize physician-assisted suicide in California, narrowly **passed** the Assembly Judiciary Committee yesterday. The final vote tally was Jones, Evans, Laird, Levine, and Lieber voting "yes," with Harman, Haynes, Leslie and Montanez voting "no." The bill will now proceed to Appropriations. If passed, it will move to the Assembly floor.*

***Please ask your assemblymember to oppose AB 654.** For talking points and a sample letter, visit the "[California legislation](#)" link on our [Web site](#) and click "[See key bills for 2005](#)." To find your assembly member, visit <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>.*

As you share this information with other Californians concerned for life, please include your pastors and church leaders. We must stand together for life!

Today's alert focuses on education. **SB 753**, a bill to help parents clearly understand their school district's policy on releasing students in grades seven through twelve for confidential medical services, will be heard next week in the Senate Education Committee. Please take action on this important bill that nearly succeeded in passing both houses last year.

Remember to visit the legislation section of our [California Web site](#) for the [current status](#) of pending measures.

The hearing on SB 753 (Morrow) is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20. If you can, please fax your letter to the Senate Education committee before Friday to ensure that it is tabulated in the published analysis!

Pray that God will give the committee members wisdom as they meet next week.

A sample letter to cut and paste is below. More complete talking points are also included.

If your senator is on the committee (listed below), please share your support for this bill by calling or e-mailing him or her. If you can, please fax the committee (916) 445-7799 and copy the committee members as shown below. Please be sure to send a copy of your letter to Senator Morrow's office at (916) 446-7382 (fax), or Senator.Morrow@sen.ca.gov.

Thank you for making a difference!

Sample Letter Supporting SB 753

The Honorable Jack Scott, Chairman
Senate Education Committee
Via Fax

Dear Chairman Scott:

Your committee will hear SB 753 (Morrow) on April 20. This bill requires separate notification to parents if school district policy allows children in grades 7 through 12 to be released from campus for confidential medical services without their knowledge or consent. That's a good idea.

If districts opt to release children, parents must be notified that the policy exists at the beginning of the school year. Unfortunately, that notice is generally buried in pages of fine print, leaving most parents in the dark. SB 753 creates better awareness for parents. Requiring that the notice be on a separate document within the significant amount of material sent home with children at the beginning of the school year ensures that this policy is more clearly communicated to parents and guardians.

SB 753 makes sense and shows that schools are truly concerned about parental involvement and our children's well-being. Please support SB 753.

Respectfully,

SB 753 - Release for Confidential Medical Services
Talking Points

1. SB 753 requires separate notification to parents if school district policy allows children in grades 7 through 12 to be released from campus for confidential medical services without their knowledge or consent.
2. Most school districts currently allow the release of these minor children without parental knowledge, but they are not required to do so. If districts opt to release children, parents must be notified that the policy exists at the beginning of the school year. Unfortunately, that notice is generally buried in pages of fine print, leaving most parents in the dark. SB 753 creates better awareness for parents.
3. Requiring that the notice be on a separate document within the significant amount of material sent home with children at the beginning of the school year ensures that this policy is more clearly communicated to parents and guardians.
4. Schools cannot give children headache medication without parental permission. Given that abortions and other medical procedure have serious emotional and physical consequences, it seems only appropriate that parents be properly notified that their children's schools could release students from campus without parental knowledge.
5. Nothing is of more concern to parents than their child's whereabouts and safety. Providing notification of release policies demonstrates that schools recognize the importance of parental involvement in children's lives.
6. SB 753 could also help protect schools from liability, an important concern in today's legal environment.

If you can, please fax the letter to the committee at (916) 445-7799 and copy the committee members as shown below.

Committee members

Fax

E-mail

<u>Senator Jack Scott (Chair)</u>	(916) 324-7543	<u>Senator.Scott@sen.ca.gov</u>
<u>Senator Abel Maldonado (Vice-Chair)</u>	(916) 445-8081	<u>Senator.Maldonado@sen.ca.gov</u>
<u>Senator Elaine Alquist</u>	(916) 324-0283	<u>Senator.Alquist@sen.ca.gov</u>
<u>Senator Jeff Denham</u>	(916) 445-0773	<u>Senator.Denham@sen.ca.gov</u>
<u>Senator Robert Dutton</u>	(916) 327-2272	<u>Senator.Dutton@sen.ca.gov</u>
<u>Senator Alan Lowenthal</u>	(916) 327-9113	<u>Senator.Lowenthal@sen.ca.gov</u>
<u>Senator Bill Morrow</u>	(916) 446-7382	<u>Senator.Morrow@sen.ca.gov</u>
<u>Senator Gloria Romero</u>	(916) 445-0485	<u>Senator.Romero@sen.ca.gov</u>
<u>Senator Joe Simitian</u>	(916) 323-4529	<u>Senator.Simitian@sen.ca.gov</u>
<u>Senator Nell Soto</u>	(916) 445-0128	<u>Senator.Soto@sen.ca.gov</u>
<u>Senator Jackie Speier</u>	(916) 327-2186	<u>Senator.Speier@sen.ca.gov</u>
<u>Senator Tom Torlakson</u>	(916) 445-2527	<u>Senator.Torlakson@sen.ca.gov</u>

Thank you for making a difference!