



CWA of California

Action Alert

March 31, 2005

Dear Friend:

Concerned Women for America (CWA) expressed prayer and sympathy today for the Schindler family as they grieve the tragic death of their daughter Terri Schiavo, who died due to Judge Greer's death-by-starvation order. "We are deeply saddened that the Schindler family found the life of their daughter in the hands of a merciless judicial system. Terri Schiavo's battle to live will not be forgotten," said Mrs. Beverly LaHaye, CWA's Founder and Chairman. Please visit our [CWA Web site](#) for the complete statement and more on Terri's struggle.

Moving to California, there are a number of key state bills being heard in committees next week. Please visit the legislation section of our [California Web site](#) for the [current status](#) of pending measures.

Today our focus is AB 866, a troubling measure that threatens free speech during political campaigns. Voters need to know the positions of candidates on moral and social issues, among them same-sex "marriage" and the promotion of homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle in our schools. AB 866 would not allow candidates who sign a voluntary pledge to discuss these important topics. Then-Assemblymember Sheila Kuehl introduced a similar bill in 1996. It failed in its first committee hearing.

You can help ensure the same fate for this threat to free speech! It takes only a few minutes of your time ...

A hearing on AB 866 (Yee) is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5. If you can, please fax your letter to the committee today or this evening to ensure that it is tabulated in the published analysis! However, you may fax or e-mail your letters at any time before Tuesday's hearing.

Pray that God would 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.

Please fax the committee at (916) 319-2194. You may also fax or e-mail the individual members. That contact information is also below.

Please visit our [Web site](#) for more information on pending [California legislation](#). The information is continually updated to help you share your views.

Thank you for making a difference!

Sample Letter Opposing AB 866

The Honorable Tom Umberg, Chair
Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee
Via E-mail/Fax

Dear Chairman Umberg:

Your committee will hear AB 866 (Yee) on April 5. I ask that your committee oppose this legislation.

The right to free speech is one of our most cherished freedoms. The ability of candidates to freely share their views on social and moral issues during campaigns helps voters determine who will best represent their beliefs in the legislature. This is vital to our political process.

In addition, AB 866 is an affront to the legitimate moral and religious beliefs of those running for office. When candidates choose not to sign the voluntary pledge, they could be targeted by certain activist groups as a different class of "prejudiced" candidates for simply standing on their well-founded principles.

I ask you to stand for free speech and oppose AB 866.

Respectfully,

AB 866 Campaign Practices Code
Talking Points

1. AB 866 adds the categories of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the voluntary campaign pledge that candidates may sign indicating that they will not make any appeals to negative prejudice during their campaigns. Specifically, the pledge would state in part, "I SHALL NOT USE OR PERMIT any appeal to negative prejudice based on race, sex, religion, national origin, *sexual orientation*, *gender identity*, physical health status, or age."
2. AB 866 is a direct challenge to free speech, as well as to the religious and moral beliefs of persons running for public office. It would create separate categories of candidates who are and who are not willing to sign the voluntary campaign statement and thereby render those who do not as potential targets for ridicule.
3. The bill also tacitly condemns those who disagree with the notion of same-sex "marriage" and the acceptance of homosexuality and transgenderism as normal—in other words, the majority of Americans and Californians who hold to one of the major faiths!
4. The author's notion that candidate statements with regard to views on sexual orientation, gender identity or related issues like same-sex "marriage" create "an atmosphere of fear, intimidation, and instances of violence" is outrageous. This is simply an issue of whether or not the voters will have accurate and honest information in order to make good decisions at the ballot box.
5. AB 866 stifles public discourse on some of the most hotly contested current issues in our state and nation, including same-sex "marriage." During an election campaign, candidate views on such topics represent an integral part of the political process and critical information for the voting public.

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Thank you for making a difference!

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