



Concerned Women for America of Washington Newsletter

Winter 2008

Greeting From State Director - Maureen Richardson

"Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" (I Corinthians 1:20) I recently read this verse in my daily devotional while pondering the focus of this newsletter. God is so good to have warned us in His Holy Bible about what we will have to deal with in our world and how we should respond to the world so that its sinfulness does not catch us unaware (Romans 12:2; I Peter 1:13-16).

Whether the world is telling us that restricting marriage to one man and one woman is bigoted and old-fashioned, that a conceived child is not yet a "person"

and can, therefore, be murdered in the womb, that very young children are "protected" by exposing them to inappropriate information about human sexuality (for example, the F.L.A.S.H. curriculum used in many of Washington's metropolitan school districts), or demanding that people confused about their gender be granted special rights based upon their sexual preference or identity, those of us who still believe in the wisdom of God's Word and the common sense of the common man are now told we are hateful and intolerant. We are also told that we have no right (despite the First Amendment) to express our religious views in the public

schools, public places, and even at our places of employment if those views "offend" someone else. However, if we are offended when a woman who is confused about her gender requests the right to use men's facilities (read Matt Barber's article, "A 'Gay Man' Trapped In A Woman's Body and Other Nonsense" at cwfa.org), our critics intolerantly call us intolerant bigots and adherents to an old-fashioned religion. We need to use love and compassion when we tell His Truth, but we must share it or we are not following Jesus Christ's commission to "Go into all the world and preach the

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Legislative Update

Sanctity of Life:

Support HB 1321

This bill would restore parental rights in the medical care of underage daughters and prevent other adults (except in the case of an emergency) from enabling a young woman to make the life-changing decision to have an abortion without parental involvement.

Be sure to check the CWA of WA web page at wa.cwfa.org for updates before taking action on these bills.

Death With Dignity/Assisted Suicide

The legislative leadership has decided not to promote this issue during an election year. Instead there will be

an initiative to the people. We will send out more information about the initiative once the wording of the initiative is made available.

Education:

Oppose HB 2698

This bill would refuse federal funding for abstinence education due to the passage last year of SB 5297 which mandates state control of all sexual health education in the public schools and specifically disallows abstinence-only education. The supporters of so-called comprehensive sexual health education

claim that funding abstinence-only education is unnecessary and conflicts with "medical accuracy".

Definition of the Family/Marriage:

Oppose HB 3104 and SB 6716

These two bills call for expanding the rights and responsibilities granted to unmarried "domestic partnerships" in SB 5336 which was passed last year. If passed, these bills would continue to erode the historical status

granted to married couples to help them raise the next generation of citizens.

Religious Liberty:

There are currently three bills dealing with the rights of medical personnel to decline participation in abortion practices based on their sincerely-held religious beliefs. As mentioned above, the hearings on these bills have been cancelled. Pray for judicial wisdom on this issue and for the pharmacists involved.

Sign up for CWA of WA Action Alerts
To receive weekly updates on these and other emerging bills, please sign up by contacting the state office at 425-869-1923.

Update On Pharmacy Conscience Clause Issue

In July 2007 the Washington Board of Pharmacy adopted regulations that require pharmacies and some pharmacists to sell Plan B, an early abortifacient drug. The Human Rights Commission of Washington also told health-care providers that they would be engaging in illegal discrimination if they declined to sell Plan B to patients. As a part of their effort to require providers to sell Plan B, pro-abortion activists and state officials began to picket and boycott Stormans, Inc., a fourth-generation family-owned business which operates two independent supermarkets and a pharmacy in Olympia. The Stormans family believes life begins at conception. Plan B can destroy human life by preventing a fertilized egg from implantation.

Faced with the threat of an enforcement action by the State, the Stormans and two pharmacists filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court. On November 8, 2007, the Honorable United States District Court Judge Ronald B. Leighton entered a preliminary injunction against the State officials. The injunction prohibits the State from requiring pharmacists and pharmacies to dispense Plan B if the health-care providers refer patients to nearby sources to obtain the drug. In issuing the injunction, the Court found that the Stormans and pharmacists will likely prevail at trial on their free exercise of religion claim. The

State, Planned Parenthood, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Northwest Women's Law Center have appealed the ruling to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The State has also filed motions with Judge Leighton to essentially request that he reverse his initial ruling. Judge Leighton has scheduled oral argument for February 15, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. Please **pray** that Judge Leighton will have wisdom and courage to uphold his ruling and allow the lawsuit to proceed even though the appeal is pending. Also, please **pray** that the Stormans and pharmacists find favor when the appeal is heard before the Ninth Circuit.

In addition to the ongoing court battle, several Democratic legislators have sponsored a bill to essentially reverse the Court's order. Other legislators have proposed compromise bills that would allow providers to refer patients to nearby sources. The Senate Health and Long-Term Care Committee members had scheduled hearings on these bills January 28, 2008. **However, the hearings have been cancelled. Pray** for those who support a Godly solution to the Plan B controversy. **Pray** that God's sovereignty will be demonstrated in the political and judicial process, that His will is done and that He is glorified.

40 Days For Life

There is an ongoing series of gatherings around the nation in support of the sanctity of life. On January 22, the 35th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the U. S. Supreme Court decision that decriminalized abortion, pro-lifers gathered around the nation, including 4,500 citizens in Olympia. In addition, many citizens have joined the "40 Days for Life" campaign.

There will be a "40 Days for Life" campaign in Issaquah from February 3 until March 16. You are invited to join this campaign to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. For more information, please contact Maria Lancaster 425-214-4512, e-mail Issaquah40days@aol.com or go to www.40daysforlife.com/Issaquah.

There is also a "40 Days for Life" campaign in Spokane from February 6-March 16. This website has the details: <http://www.40daysforlife.com/spokane/>; or contact Elizabeth.life@yahoo.com or 509-448-3129. For more information about the National Campaign go to: www.40daysforlife.com.

Projects

Encourage-A-Legislator

Weekly notes sent to Washington's state legislators, intended to encourage and inspire them. Contact Maureen for details by e-mail (director@washington.cwfa.org) or call the state office 425-869-1923.

What's That Dresser For Anyway?

This is a ministry of practical help for those in crisis pregnancies. Each dresser is filled with necessities for a new mother and her baby and then gifted to a local pregnancy care center. Contact Maureen for details at director@washington.cwfa.org or call 425-869-1923.

Prayer/Action Chapters

Please pray with CWA! We have Prayer/Action Chapters in the following cities:

Bellevue, Castle Rock, Edmonds, Eastsound, Freeland, Issaquah, Everett, Redmond, Seattle, Shoreline, Spokane, Shelton, and Vancouver!

If your city is not listed, would you pray about starting a Prayer/Action Chapter in your area? We will help you get started!

If e-mail is more your style, you can become a Home Team Captain and help us educate others.

Call 425-869-1923 for an application!

Steering Committee Positions Available

Records Correspondent, Legislative Liaison Assistant, Newsletter Committee, Communications Coordinator and Specialists. Please contact us if you are at all interested in any of these positions. Call 425-869-1923 or simply go on our web page at wa.cwfa.org.

Greeting From State Director - Continued

Gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)

CWA stands firm in our mission to protect and promote Biblical values among all citizens-- first through prayer, then education, and finally by influencing our society--thereby reversing the decline in moral values in our nation. Because of that mission, our national President Wendy Wright was called "the worst person in the world" by a liberal commentator! (www.cwfa.org) Again, I ask you, where is "tolerance" when it comes to people of faith?

Once again, Concerned Women for America of Washington will be dealing with state legislation that makes man's wisdom look very foolish indeed. We will focus on the sanctity of life, education, definition of the family and religious liberty. In addition to this winter newsletter, you can stay informed on public policy issues in our state by signing up for our Action Alerts. Please contact the state office by e-mail, telephone, fax, or letter to sign up. You will receive weekly alerts during the legislative ses-

sion and monthly alerts the rest of the year. You will also find those alerts on our state website (wa.cwfa.org). If you do not have internet access, please be in touch with your own legislators to express your opinions on CWA's six core issues (sanctity of life, education, definition of the family, religious liberty, pornography and national sovereignty). You may share your concerns during the legislative session by calling the free legislative hotline (1-800-562-6000) where friendly people will record your message and send it to your representative.

CWA's verse for 2008 is "*The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.*" (Proverbs 21:1) James 5:16 tells us that "*The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*" Paul exhorted us that "*supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.*" (I Timothy

2:1-2) Since CWA's priority is prayer, please be praying for our state and federal representatives so that we might lead quiet and peaceable lives with total religious liberty and the ability to live out our faith. With that in mind, would you join our "Encourage-A-Legislator" campaign this year? We have half of the state's legislators covered in prayer and with your help we can encourage all of them through daily prayer and weekly postcards which CWA will provide to you. Just fill out the form in this newsletter and return it to the state office.

The vision of CWA of Washington is to be an instrument for the Lord to use to educate people on Judeo-Christian values and to instill these values into the culture of the state of Washington. To that end, we are involved in a variety of projects, issues, legislation, and much more. Contact the state office today to find out about the many opportunities for involvement as well as current leadership in your area. You are needed!

Feel Free To Copy & Distribute This Newsletter To Other Concerned Citizens!

Reply Memorandum

If you have not yet renewed your annual membership in Concerned Women for America, you may do so through the state office. Each state is self-supporting so your tax-deductible gift will help support our work in the state, including this newsletter.

- Yes, please renew my annual membership at the national and state level. I have included a gift of \$25/individual or \$30/couple or more. I would like to continue to receive the national and state newsletters.
- I will make a tax-deductible donation of \$1 (or more) to cover the expense of this newsletter.
- I would like to be on the state e-alert list. My e-mail address is: _____
- I would like to join the "Encourage-A-Legislator" campaign. Please send an information packet to me at the following address: _____

Please mail this reply to:
CWA of Washington
P. O. Box 143, Woodinville, WA 98072
Thank you for standing with us! May God bless you always.