

## Board of Directors

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## “There Is More Work To Be Done”

### *Session Reflections*

The 60<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session has concluded, the legislators have completed their work. It was a session where a large budget surplus dominated the day to day discussions, and a property tax relief bill held the assembly in perpetual suspension over the last days. Paraphrasing one legislator who quipped how easy it is to devise innovative ways to implement new taxes, but oh so hard to figure out a way to return money to the public which is really theirs to begin with.

The legislature debated a great number of bills dealing with social issues, many followed by the North Dakota Family Alliance. Unfortunately, we could not do justice to following as many bills as we would have liked. So we were only able to follow or have an impact on the bills listed and reported on in this publication. As we review the outcome of the bills, it would appear the Alliance’s position prevailed in most cases, and maybe it did. But a word of caution, there is a great deal of work yet to be done.

As we look back on the session in regard to the pro life abortion related bills, we would have to believe moderate success was achieved. The passage of HB 1466, the triggered ban on abortion bill, required a great deal of effort, cooperation, and persistence. Even though in the end over 60% of the legislators voted for HB 1466, there were numerous critical instances when this bill could have been lost. Also, on a positive note, funding was provided to private entities for ‘alternative to abortion’ programs, and the international adoption process was streamlined.

On the not so positive side, three abortion related bills, as well as SB 2400 were defeated. Especially troubling was the senates procedural motion ‘to lay on the table’ SB 2400. This motion provides an opportunity to kill a bill, with no debate, and in this case no roll call vote was requested or taken. The basic intent of SB 2400 was to clarify and codify that *an unborn child is a human being*. This simple statement, this simple truth was not debated or voted upon on the senate floor. *There is more work to be done.*

Bills dealing with marriage met with only minimal success. The partial repeal of the marriage penalty in the ND income tax code is long overdue, and does send a positive message. It does allow married couples to retain a greater portion of their earnings. That is good. Not so good was the defeat of a premarital counseling bill, and even more troubling was action taken on the cohabitation language in the century

code. While the cohabitation language in the century code was not utilized often, it was constitutional, contrary to comments made to the contrary. Even more troubling were the attitudinal comments about being ridiculed by people in other states for our adherence to standards. Some espoused that we needed to keep up with the times, and the passage of this bill and the lowering of our standards would be a great recruitment tool to attract young people to North Dakota. We can all visualize how the billboards would look as visitors entered our state, or the script the commerce department might use in its advertising.

No matter how strongly you feel about the issue of cohabitation, the core issue here is marriage. Marriage is the cornerstone of our society, and the family. Any deterioration of marriage does have a negative effect on families. And public policy does affect marriage. *There is more work to be done.*

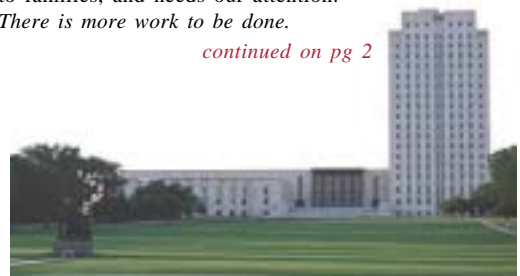
While there were numerous bills dealing with parental rights, SB 2181 became the battleground for the philosophical discussions. This bill which was defeated would have allowed a minor girl to contract for medical services to determine a pregnancy *with out parental notification, involvement, and eventual decision making*. While all are concerned about the medical and emotional well being of a young girl in this situation, the removal of the parents would only compound the problem.

The emotional, passionate, and intense discussions on this issue clearly indicate the debate is far from over. Nor should it be. *There is more work to be done.*

Most bills dealing with the expansion of gambling were defeated. Thanks to Warren DeKrey for his cooperation and hard work.

A number of bills passed with provisions to keep sexual predators a specified distance from our schools. Also a number of bills increased penalties for those convicted of dealing in pornography. The pornography industry grosses more revenue that all major professional sports combined, and afflicts children as well as adults. It is horrifically detrimental to families, and needs our attention. *There is more work to be done.*

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Unfortunately, we were unable to follow many educational bills. Some bills which would have had a positive effect were defeated, including a home schooling bill and one dealing with tuition credits for those attending private and parochial schools. These issues dealing with the education of our family children need greater attention as we prepare for the next session. *There is more work to be done.*

On a bright note, funding was appropriated for Teen Challenge to carry out its great work dealing with drug and alcohol addiction.

### Call to Action

As we reflect on this past legislative session, we recognize some positive accomplishments. We need to celebrate these successes! At the same time, we realistically can see many areas of concern. The challenges that lie ahead for our families are great. As we look around our nation and world, we see troubling events occurring everywhere. Events that we will not be able to isolate ourselves from, events that we will need to deal with. Here are just a few of the headlines making the news in the past months:

- “Congressional democrats seek to codify Roe v. Wade”
- “Lawmaker presses to legalize internet gambling”
- “Online teen hangout attract sexual predators”
- “Disney offers commitment ceremonies for gays”
- “Two more states consider gay adoption”
- “Student sent home for protest of Gay Day of Silence”
- “Florida Shell stations bring back porn magazines”
- “Minnesota lawmakers consider legal status for homosexuals”
- “Minnesota lawmakers consider mandating sexual education including homosexual sex practices and prohibiting abstinence curriculum”
- “Wisconsin rejects abstinence funds”
- “University students expelled for expressing faith”

These are just a sampling of literally hundreds of issues being dealt with across the nation. These issues are real, and they will affect our families and the religious freedoms we all hold so dear. Some of these issues affect us here in North Dakota today, and it is only a matter of time before others will.

*Let this be our call to action. Not only do we need to stand up to be counted with those supporting the family and its values, but we need to step out. We need to step out to take action. We need to take action to make a difference. Edmund Burke said “all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing”. How true those words were then, how true they are today, especially today.*

*Please stand up! Please step out! Please speak up! Please join the North Dakota Family Alliance in taking action! We need your help, involvement, and support. North Dakota families, our children, and our grandchildren need you. Contact us to see how you can help.*

**PLEASE STAND UP! PLEASE STEP OUT!  
PLEASE SPEAK UP!**

God Bless you and your family,

Tom D Freier

## Who We Are

The North Dakota Family Alliance (NDFFA) is a state based organization dedicated to strengthening and upholding traditional family values. NDFFA is a non-profit, non-denominational, non-partisan organization founded in 1987. We provide credible research and informational resources to groups, individuals and policy makers on important moral, social and public policy issues facing North Dakota.

Mention and/or publication of outside articles, websites and additional resources do not necessarily reflect NDFFA's endorsement.

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## Volunteers Needed

The NDFA is asking for help in these different areas:

- ❖ Attend interim legislative meetings in Bismarck.
- ❖ Help in internet research.
- ❖ Analysis and compilation in relation to the recent legislative session.
- ❖ Clerical or administrative help in the Fargo area.
- ❖ Phone calls to our members to verify mailing information and phone numbers.



If you are willing to help in any way, or are unsure as to how, please contact us at 701-223-3575 or [admin@ndf.a.org](mailto:admin@ndf.a.org)

*Encouraging Hearts, Equipping Minds,  
Empowering Lives...  
Strengthening Families in North Dakota*

### Fundraising Update

- ❖ *First, a heartfelt THANK YOU! to those who have given. Your partnership is such an encouragement!*
- ❖ *Remember, contributions are tax-exempt and we send receipts for all donations received.*

There is a tax advantage to donating IRA – MANDATORY DISTRIBUTION for those over 70 – contact our office or your financial planner for more information.

### We Still Need You!

- ❖ Share our newsletter with your friends and family! Encourage them to sign up for our mailing list!
- ❖ Visit with and encourage your church to become a member of the V-100 club.
- ❖ Do you need a speaker for a local church or civic event? Contact us!
- ❖ Share your thoughts, comments, and suggestions with us!

## 2007 Legislative Session - Bills of Interest

HB 1040 Passed                      NDFA supported  
This bill provided a penalty for anyone protesting or displaying disorderly conduct within 300 feet of a funeral.

HB 1129 Passed                      NDFA supported the section dealing with stillbirth  
This provides the opportunity for parents to receive a 'certificate of stillbirth' when a birth results in stillbirth. (HB 1191 was amended into HB 1129)

HB 1320 Failed                      NDFA opposed  
This bill would have provided for a prekindergarten program in public schools.

HB 1357 Passed                      NDFA supported  
This bill increased the penalty for someone having possession of material such as photographs or motion pictures showing sexual conduct by a minor.

HB 1466 Passed                      NDFA supported  
This bill became known as the 'triggered' or 'delayed implementation' ban on abortion. The ban on abortion will be triggered by the US Supreme Court reversing its ruling allowing legal abortions, and verification by the ND Attorney General and the legislative council. The bill includes provisions for protection of life of the mother, and exceptions for rape and incest.

*Three other sanctity of life bills, HB 1464, HB 1489, and HB 1494 were defeated in the house. These bills ranged from rather minor language clarification to an outright ban on abortion.*

HB 1471 Passed                      NDFA monitored  
This bill provides funds to the Department of Health to educate and inform the public about the human papilloma virus, and its relevance to cervical cancer.  
*This issue needs to be monitored in the interim to insure its implementation does not go beyond the intent of the legislation.*

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## *2007 Legislative Session - Bills of Interest Continued...*

HB 1472 Passed                      NDFA supported

This bill provides a penalty for a sexual offender's presence within 50 feet of a school.

HB 1509 Failed                      NDFA opposed

This bill would have allowed for 'previously run horse races' wagering on electronic machines, basically a slot machine. This would have been a huge expansion of gambling.

*Most bills dealing with any expansion of gambling failed. These bills all failed: HB 1167, HB 1264, HB 1367, HB 1440, SB 2140, SB 2150, SB 2209, and SB 2334. They dealt with increasing betting limits on Poker to raffles to taxation treatment. Thanks to Warren DeKrey for his tireless work on the gambling issues.*

SB 2032 Passed                      NDFA supported the marriage penalty repeal.

This bill provided for property tax relief, an increase in the homestead tax credit, and a partial repeal of the marriage penalty in ND income tax code. While the repeal does not entirely remove the penalty, it does so for a majority of married couples filing their ND income tax. The penalty reduction for any couple is capped at \$300. Not only will this allow married couples to keep more of their money, but it is just good policy to stop discriminating against married couples.

SB 2138 Passed                      NDFA opposed

This bill sought to repeal the cohabitation language in our century code, disallowing the cohabitation of men and women without being married. The bill was amended to retain the basic language, but moved the language to a non criminalized section of the code. The NDFA testified promoting marriage as the cornerstone of our society, and the detrimental effect of cohabitation on marriage, the spouse, children, and the family as a whole.

SB 2181 Failed                      NDFA opposed

This bill would have provided for minor girls to consent to and contract for medical services to determine pregnancy and provide for treatment with out parental knowledge, involvement, and consent. After the bill was defeated in the house, it was amended into HB 1466, the triggered abortion ban bill. It was removed from HB 1466, and failed.

SB 2312 Passed                      NDFA supported

This bill appropriates \$400,000 to non governmental entities to promote 'alternative to abortion' programs and services. Very good program and use of funds.

SB 2366 Passed                      NDFA supported

This bill expedites the process of the foreign decree of adoption by validating efforts already processed in the initial adoption process. It saves the adopting families an immense amount of time and some expenses. This is good legislation promoting adoption.

SB 2371 Failed                      NDFA supported original bill

This was to be a bill to make some good changes to the home schooling section of the century code. The intent of the original bill was to update and to clarify some testing language, as well as to expand those who could supervise the instruction, including grandparents and foster care parents. The bill was amended to the point that it caused great harm to the ability of the home schooling community to educate their children. Eventually, the only recourse was to ask for the bill to be killed. It was.

SB 2377 Failed                      NDFA opposed

The bill was introduced to deal with midwifery and the delivery of babies at home. There was a great deal of testimony documenting the home delivery process, and the safety and health concerns. Eventually, the bill was 'hoghoused' to become a study. The 'hoghoused' version of the bill was defeated.

SB 2400 Failed                      NDFA supported

This was NDFA's bill to define an unborn child as a human being. The original bill included language granting citizenship to both the born and preborn. It seemed the concept was difficult to understand, and an amendment was offered to simply define the unborn child as a human being. That amendment was not successfully adopted in the committee. Before the amendment was to be offered on the senate floor, a rarely used procedure, to lay on the table, was made and adopted. The motion for all intents and purposes eliminated debate and prevented a roll call vote on the bill. The bill is lost.

*The NDFA is still very supportive of the bill, and plans to continue to promote the intent of the bill.*

SB 2415 Passed                      NDFA supported

This bill prohibits the mandatory implanting of microchips in an individual.



## **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Our mailing list has not been updated or validated in quite some time. We want to make sure we are sending the newsletter and all other communication to your current address. Any printed material sent to an outdated address is an unnecessary expense to NDFA, and of no benefit to you.

**Please complete the response form in the newsletter, and return in the enclosed envelope or call (701) 223-3575.** If you would like to receive communications by email, please

share your email address. Email communications allow us to keep you informed in a more timely manner. We will share communications in whichever manner you feel most comfortable receiving. Be assured that we do not share your personal contact information, including your email address, with any outside parties.

**Thank you for helping us in this matter - We believe this will help us to serve you better!**

### Protect Embryonic Stem Cells

**W**hy is there so much controversy over embryonic stem cell research? Let's take a look at some facts.

There are currently over 400,000 frozen human embryos in the U.S. Some would like us to turn these embryos, human beings in an essential stage of development, into medical experiments funded by our taxpayer dollars. In fact, both the U.S. House and Senate (with the help of N.D.'s Washington delegation) have recently passed a bill that will do just that. President Bush's promised veto is the only thing stopping taxpayer-funded embryonic stem cell research from becoming a reality.

But why should we care? As citizens we need to be informed about this most important debate over stem cell research because embryos are the very beginning of human life. From embryos, we have all become the people we are today. To put an end to the life of an embryo (living human cells with complete and unique human DNA) is to extinguish a potential human being.

Beyond the ethical considerations there are the facts about stem cell research. Adult stem cell research has currently produced over 70 cures and treatments with ethical compromise, while embryonic stem cell research has produced none. The bulk of private funding is going toward the results already realized in adult stem cell research; should our taxpayer dollars supplement morally compromising research that has yet to produce any results?



There is a great need to protect embryos. All one needs to do is look at the faces of children who were adopted as frozen embryos to see that these children, suspended in frozen animation, really are a gift from God.

Please contact your Senators and Congressman to voice your opinion on this issue as the drive for taxpayer-funded embryonic stem cell research will not end with the president's veto. For more information visit: [www.StemCellResearchFacts.com](http://www.StemCellResearchFacts.com). To get involved in informing North Dakota citizens on the issues surrounding embryonic stem cell research contact Alison Grotberg, #701-646-6522 or [embryohope@gmail.com](mailto:embryohope@gmail.com)

### *A Letter from Steve Cates*

*NDFA Board Chairman*

I am writing today to thank you first of all for your tremendous support over these last few months. I think it is accurate to state that with your help the NDFA had a significant presence in the 2007 legislative session. My first impulse is to write a long winded pat on the back about what a skillful job our Executive Director Tom Freier did in representing us, but most of you already know that so that it really goes without saying. There I said it but I didn't.

As in every other legislative session the primacy of the family was under attack, there were attempts to redefine just what a family was, and there was quite a struggle on the issues of life and abortion. We did pretty well considering that the organization was being resurrected with Tom's new tenure. But it is already time to start laying the ground work for the next legislative session and the policy struggles that will inevitably need to be addressed in the interim.

The NDFA has seen a glimpse of what is possible if we really work hard. We must build a network of like minded people who recognize the sanctity of life and the importance of preserving the traditional values of faith, family and freedom. It is our intent to visit and educate as many North Dakota citizens as time and finances allow. But we need your help.

I know you are inundated with pleas for money all the time. And all or most of those pleas seem valid and important. It kind of drives me crazy to tell you the truth. Like me, you have to prioritize your giving. I understand. But please recognize that we have created some significant momentum. NDFA is rolling forward as an entity that has effect.

I wish I could simply transfer to you my knowledge of the effect a few dedicated individuals can have on the future of our country. Great things can be accomplished if we only have the will and make the effort. I will pledge to you here today, my time and treasure. I ask that you examine your heart and consider your commitment. Basically, to serve you, we need you. Now, for the bottom line....PLEASE consider how you could support us financially. Thanks for all you have and will do for all of our families and those yet to be born.



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Bismarck, ND 58501

# Have You Been To Our Website Lately?



Our website is up and running!  
To get our latest information and activities visit:

[www.ndfa.org](http://www.ndfa.org)

*Please give us your ideas on what you would like to see on the web.*

5/07 I want to help NDFA promote & uphold family policies and values with my tax-deductible gift of:

\_\_\_\$2,500 \_\_\_\$1,000 \_\_\_\$500 \_\_\_\$250 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_Membership \$60/yr.  
Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is given: \_\_\_in Memory of \_\_\_in Honor\* of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \*I have included my e-mail address to help you save on postage costs. Please remove my name from the mailing list and add it to the E-mail list.

(Make checks payable to: NDFA)  
Please print clearly or affix your return address label.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ Voting District \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions to the North Dakota Family Alliance are tax-deductible as stated under the IRS code, section 501 ( c ) 3.

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