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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Legislature Must Help Abuse Victims

ARGUS LEADER, Sioux Falls (Feb. 1): Some important work is being done by South Dakota legislators this year as they try to better protect victims of domestic violence. A package of bills, drafted after a summer study of the state's domestic violence statutes, now is moving through the committee hearing stage in Pierre.

One of the proposed law changes has drawn some media attention. That proposal would expand the definition of those covered under the domestic abuse statutes to include dating couples who do not live together. The law also would be changed to protect pregnant women who do not live with their abusers.

The current law details domestic abuse as "physical harm or attempted harm or the infliction of fear of harm committed by family or household members against spouses, former spouses, relatives, people who live or have lived in the same household or people who have a child together."

The Senate Judiciary Committee has approved this bill, and it is scheduled for floor debate in coming weeks.

The proposed law doesn't limit coverage to couples of the opposite sex. An effort last year to provide protections to same-sex couples failed.

But there are several other important domestic violence protection measures to be debated yet this session. Two of the bills attempt to protect minor children when they are involved in or witness domestic abuse.

One would make it a crime to commit certain acts of domestic abuse in the presence of a child, and another would provide for delays in arrest on some outstanding warrants if the person involved is a domestic abuse victim and is the immediate caregiver of a minor child.

Two other measures attempt to better outline and standardize the judicial review process involving lawsuits, complaints and petitions for certain protection orders.

The bills were drafted after a study group of legislators, led by Sioux Falls Sen. Deb Soholt, spent time analyzing existing statutes, listening to testimony from law enforcement officials, abuse counselors, judges and others on the status of domestic violence protections in this state.

This is an important issue for our state. In 2012, seven of the 15 homicides in South Dakota involved domestic abuse, and more than 1,000 domestic abuse assaults were reported in 2013, according to the study group's report.

The study group took special note of the effects on children who witness domestic abuse. Many states provide extra protection for children in these situations, and the draft bills attempt to do that in South Dakota.

The Legislature is right to focus on the concerns of those who help victims of abuse and prosecute the abusers. These measures are well-researched and reasonable. We urge lawmakers to make them law.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 10, the 41st day of 2014. There are 324 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 10, 1968, U.S. figure skater Peggy Fleming won America's only gold medal of the Winter Olympic Games in Grenoble, France.

On this date: In 1763, Britain, Spain and France signed the Treaty of Paris, ending the Seven Years' War (also known as the French and Indian War in North America).

In 1840, Britain's Queen Victoria married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

In 1841, Upper Canada and Lower Canada were proclaimed under an Act of Union passed by the British Parliament.

In 1933, the first singing telegram was introduced by the Postal Telegram Co. in New York.

In 1942, the former French liner *Normandie* capsized in New York Harbor a day after it caught fire while being refitted for the U.S. Navy. RCA Victor presented Glenn Miller and his Orchestra with a "gold record" for their recording of "Chattanooga Choo Choo," which had sold more than 1 million copies.

In 1949, Arthur Miller's play "Death of a Salesman" opened at Broadway's Morosco Theater with Lee J. Cobb as Willy Loman.

In 1959, a major tornado tore through the St. Louis, Mo., area, killing 21 people and causing heavy damage.

In 1962, the Soviet Union exchanged captured American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for Rudolf Abel, a Soviet spy held by the United States. Republican George W. Romney announced his ultimately unsuccessful candidacy for governor of Michigan.

In 1967, the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, dealing with presidential disability and succession, was ratified as Minnesota and Nevada adopted it.

In 1981, eight people were killed when a fire set by a busboy broke out at the Las Vegas Hilton hotel-casino.

In 1989, Ron Brown was elected the first black chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

In 1998, Dr. David Satcher was confirmed by the Senate to be surgeon general.

Ten years ago: The White House, trying to end doubts about President George W. Bush's Vietnam-era military service, released documents it said proved he had met his requirements in the Texas Air National Guard. Democrat John Kerry won the Virginia and Tennessee primaries. A truck bombing in Iskandariyah, Iraq, killed 53 people. An Iranian plane crashed

in the United Arab Emirates, killing 46 people.

Five years ago: The Senate approved President Barack Obama's giant economic stimulus measure. U.S. and Russian communication satellites collided in the first-ever crash of its kind in orbit, shooting out a pair of massive debris clouds. Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni's centrist Kadima Party narrowly won the most seats in Israel's 120-member parliament. (However, it was Benjamin Netanyahu who ended up forming the new Israeli government.)

One year ago: Joe Paterno's family released its response to Penn State's report on the Jerry Sandusky scandal, attacking Louis Freeh's conclusion that the coach hid sex abuse allegations against his longtime assistant. Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford took charge of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan. A stampede killed 37 people during a Hindu festival in northern India. At the Grammy Awards, Fun. won song of the year for "We Are Young," Gotye's massive and oddball pop hit "Somebody I Used to Know" picked up record of the year.

Today's Birthdays: Cinematographer Douglas Slocombe ("Raiders of the Lost Ark") is 101. Opera singer Leontyne Price is 87. Actor Robert Wagner is 84. Rock musician Don Wilson (The Ventures) is 81. Singer Roberta Flack is 77. Singer Jimmy Merchant (Frankie Lyman and the Teenagers) is 74. Rock musician Bob Spalding (The Ventures) is 67. Olympic gold-medal swimmer Mark Spitz is 64. Walt Disney Co. chairman and chief executive Robert Iger is 63. Rock musician and composer Cory Loeb (Pablo Cruise) is 63. World Golf Hall of Famer Greg Norman is 59. Actress Kathleen Beller is 58. Country singer Lionel Cartwright is 54. Movie director Alexander Payne (Film: "Nebraska") is 53. ABC News correspondent George Stephanopoulos is 53. Retired MLB All-Star Lenny Dykstra is 51. Political commentator Glenn Beck is 50. Actress Laura Dern is 47. Country singer Dede Foyt is 42. Actor Jason Olive is 42. Actress Elizabeth Banks is 40. Pop singer Rosanna Tavarez (Eden's Crush) is 37. Actress Julia Pace Mitchell is 36. Country musician Jeremy Baxter (Carolina Rain) is 34. Actor Max Brown is 33. Actor Barry Sloane (TV: "Revenge") is 33. Rock singer Eric Dill is 32. Rock musician Ben Romans (The Click Five) is 32. Actress Emma Roberts is 23. Actress Makenzie Vega is 20. Actress Chloe Grace Moretz is 17.

Thought for Today: "Change your life today. Don't gamble on the future, act now, without delay." — Simone de Beauvoir, French writer (1908-1986).

FROM THE BIBLE

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

YOUR LETTERS

School Support

Katie Watt, Yankton Teacher in Kabul Afghanistan
Many thanks to the Yankton community for their support of our school in Afghanistan. It is not always an easy place to live, but the support from the

community has been wonderful. Mrs. Holmstrom and Webster Elementary School did a wonderful job of raising supplies and money for our school, and we are so thankful for all of the new things we get to use in our classroom. Thank you for loving my students.



Capitol Notebook

Legislators Don't Seem To Listen On Term Limits

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Never underestimate Charlie Hoffman.

He is a state representative from McPherson County, a Republican, rancher, son of a one-time candidate for governor, father of successful children and husband of Holly who needs no introduction if you watch the TV program "Survivor."

Now he's promising to take to the streets and highways of South Dakota in the months ahead in an attempt to change about 100,000 minds.

He has pledged to campaign for expanding term limits for legislators so they can serve longer.

The state constitution currently allows a legislator to serve no more than four consecutive terms in the same chamber (and extra time if they're first appointed to a vacant seat).

That's been the case since voters approved term limits for representatives and senators in 1992.

There's no prohibition against bouncing back and forth between chambers. There's nothing that bars a legislator from taking a break and coming back later. There's no maximum of years.

Hoffman wants to change to six consecutive terms — 12 years — in the same chamber.

The House of Representatives approved his proposal 54-16 on Wednesday. That gets it halfway to the November ballot.

The Senate now has the final word. Hoffman has 11 House co-sponsors on his resolution, HJR 1002. But he has just one senator: Republican Dan Lederman of Dakota Dunes.

Proposals to change term limits are a standard piece of legislative sessions. Three in 2013. Two in 2012. One in 2011. One in 2010. One in 2009.

Lawmakers just can't seem to hear the voters.

A Valentine To A Jihad Enabler

BY MICHELLE MALKIN

Creators Syndicate

What are you doing for Valentine's Day? Bleeding-heart progressives across the country are raising money for "an evening of music, song and sharing love for recently released People's Lawyer Lynne Stewart." Warm fuzzies for one of the world's most notorious terrorist helpers? I can't think of a more stomach-turning way to mark the holiday.

Thanks to the Obama administration, Stewart walked out of prison on New Year's Eve. She is reportedly suffering stage-four breast cancer. Now she's passing the plate among her supporters, asking them to foot the bill for her health insurance deductible and co-pays, as well as for a "special diet, vitamins and other healing methods." What, no Obamacare?

Has Stewart shown exceptional remorse or good behavior to warrant such compassion? Don't forget: Both the Bureau of Prisons and a federal judge previously had denied Stewart's petition for a compassionate release, but a U.S. Attorney intervened. This preferential treatment is extraordinary: Since 1992, the annual average number of prisoners who receive compassionate release has been less than two-dozen.

Let me remind you of what she did, who benefited, who died and how she has acted since being caught red-handed and freed.

Stewart was convicted in 2005 of helping terrorist Omar Abdel Rahman — the murderous Blind Sheikh — smuggle coded messages of Islamic violence to outside followers in violation of an explicit pledge to abide by her client's court-ordered isolation. Rahman, Stewart's "political client," had called on Muslims to "destroy" the West, "burn their companies, eliminate their interests, sink their ships, shoot down their planes, kill them on the sea, air or land." He issued bloody fatwas against U.S. "infidels" that inspired the 1993 WTC bombing, the 1997 massacre of Western tourists in Luxor, Egypt, and the 9/11 attacks.

Stewart ignored a judge's communications ban, transmitting Rahman's edicts of violence to fellow jihadist Rifa' al Ahman Tara in Egypt. She smuggled out a coded order to his followers lifting a ceasefire between his terrorist group and the Egyptian government. She personally delivered one of the messages to a Reuters reporter.

The Legislature in 2008 asked voters to eliminate term limits. Their answer was 87,380 yes and 272,635 no.

The 1992 measure creating term limits passed by a very large margin too: 205,074 yes and 117,702 no.

Eight current legislators are term-limited this year.

The senators are Jean Hunhoff of Yankton and Ryan Maher of Isabel. Both are Republicans.

The representatives are Lance Carson of Mitchell, David Lust of Rapid City, David Novstrup of Aberdeen, Betty Olson of Prairie City and Manny Steele of Sioux Falls, all Republicans; and Democrat Marc Feinstein of Sioux Falls.

All six representatives voted in favor of Hoffman's resolution Wednesday, although it has no direct relief for them.

Looking ahead, there are six senators and 19 House members who would be in their fourth consecutive and therefore final term if they won re-election this fall to the same seats.

Fourteen of those representatives voted for Hoffman's resolution. The Republicans were Hoffman, Jim Bolin of Canton, Justin Cronin of Gettysburg, Brian Gosch of Rapid City, Fred Romkema of Spearfish, Jacqueline Sly of Rapid City, Roger Solum of Watertown and Dean Wink of Howes. The Democrats were Dennis Feickert of Aberdeen, Peggy Gibson of Huron, Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton, Kevin Killer of Pine Ridge, Patrick Kirschman of Sioux Falls and Susan Wismer of Britton.

The five no votes came from Democrat Dean Schremp of Lanry and Republicans Brock Greenfield of Clark, Don Kopp of Rapid City, Lance Russell of Hot Springs and Mike Verchio of Hill City.

Do those votes matter to voters? We'll check back after the Nov. 4 elections to see. Meanwhile, keep an eye out for Charlie.

Far from the innocent grandma her supporters continue to portray her as, Stewart was caught on video making distracting "covering noises" — tapping the table, shaking a water jar — for the Blind Sheikh's translator to evade the communications ban.

After receiving a measly initial sentence of 28 months for abetting terrorism, the disgraced civil rights attorney was re-sentenced to 10 years in jail. A federal panel of judges felt the need to spotlight her smugness. "From the moment she committed the first act for which she was convicted, through her trial, sentencing and appeals," Judge Robert Sack of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals wrote, "Stewart has persisted in exhibiting what seems to be a stark inability to understand the seriousness of her crimes."

Stewart failed to understand "the breadth and depth of the danger in which" her crimes had "placed the lives and safety of unknown innocents, and the extent to which they constituted an abuse of her trust and privilege as a member of the bar," the panel concluded.

This jihad-coddling grandmother remains defiant. She called 9/11 an "armed struggle." Upon her initial sentencing, she boasted that she could serve the term "standing on her head." After she was convicted of aiding and abetting Rahman, she told an interviewer she "would do it again." She has repeatedly told liberal sycophantic journalists that she would not have done anything differently.

After a jubilant return to New York City upon her release last month, Stewart thanked Louis Farrakhan, bragged about her (convicted cop-killer) Mumia Abu Jamal pin, condemned the government that had just released her and vowed to continue her radical advocacy of "political prisoners." No regrets, no remorse, no repentance.

Stewart doesn't need to solicit President Obama and the White House for a Valentine's Day donation. They delivered her the biggest "LUV YA" candy heart a terror-enabler could ask for: her release papers sealed with a kiss. XOXO.

Michelle Malkin is the author of "Culture of Corruption: Obama and his Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks and Cronies" (Regnery 2010). Her e-mail address is malkinblog@gmail.com.

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