Session outline

1. **Mission** - why in Washington, DC
2. **Methods** - accomplish mission
3. **Issues** – bills and messaging
4. **Engagement** – what you can do
Why in Washington, DC?

Practical reasons

- Influence
  - nation through legislation
  - public through media

- Serve
  - health professionals
    - testimony
    - counsel
    - committees

- Educate
  - sanctity of human life
  - ethical medicine
  - faith in health

Mission

- Evangelize
  - Help individuals and nation move toward God by aligning moral choices with His principles.
  - Faith Steps.
Faith steps

- Romans 1:19-20: “... that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

- “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

1. God reveals Himself and His ways to all of us through His natural creation.
Faith steps

Romans 2:14-15: “For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them…”

2. God reveals Himself and His ways through the conscience He gives us.
Faith steps

Romans 1:21, 28: “For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

“And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind…”
Faith steps

- Conversely:
  - Receiving God’s revelation in nature and conscience—by making moral choices aligned with His principles—keeps the door open to God.
  - softened heart
  - mind aligning with God’s principles
Faith steps

- The moral choices we make either draw us closer to God or drive us farther away from God.
- These moral choices can be called faith steps.
Faith steps

- **Individual** moral choices
  - keep baby
  - save sex for marriage
  - care for sick and elderly

- **Societal** moral choices
  - abortion
  - sex education
  - assisted suicide
Faith steps

- Encouraging faith steps—choices aligned with God’s principles—is keeping the “soil” of people’s hearts and minds fertile for God’s invitation to relationship through faith in Jesus Christ.
Encouraging individuals and society (public policy) to make God-honoring choices is an evangelistic ministry.
Methods
1. Influence policy makers
2. Engage members
3. Assist policy allies
4. Influence public opinion
5. Inform the courts
1. Influence policy makers

- Advise White House, Congress, agencies
- Over 200 personal contacts with policy makers annually
Advise White House

- President’s Domestic Policy Council meeting
- Human trafficking strategy
- Faith-based director meeting
Congress
Advise Congress

- Senate VAT
- House VAT
- House testimony – HHS mandate
- Senate testimony - assisted suicide
- House testimony – fetal pain
Agencies
Advising agencies

- Human trafficking plan
- CMDA members appointed to federal commissions and posts
- Faith-based international health
Political parameters

- Non-partisan, issue-driven
  - Limited lobbying
  - No candidate endorsements

- Provide information
- Endorse legislation
- Identify experts
- Advocate principles
- Inform & encourage members to engage
2. Engage members

Methods

Tell your Rep. to support abortion anti-pain bill

Enact a nationwide ban on late-term abortions

The “District of Columbia Unborn Child Protection Act” would enact a national prohibition on abortions on unborn children after twenty weeks gestation (post-fertilization age), at which time science shows they can feel pain.

Take Action
Engage members

- Testifying in Congress.
- Advising policy makers.
- Communicating through media.
Engage members

Federal Registry
1. Serve on federal commission.
2. Influence policy makers.
3. Land a federal career.
4. Serve in the administration.
Engage members

- **Jeff Barrows, DO**
  - Engaged on human trafficking
  - Brought to DC
    - White House
    - State Dept.
    - Homeland Security
  - Founded home for prostituted girls in OH
3. Assist policy allies

- Medical experts
- Networking
- Joint letters
Assist policy allies

- Pregnancy centers need medical advisors - supervise ultrasound
- Network with centers, link CMDA members with opportunities
Assist policy allies

- 100 allies signed CMDA letter to President supporting anti-prostitution policy on grants
- Delivered letter to President’s Domestic Policy Advisor
4. Influence public opinion

- Over 100 published commentaries & Op-eds
- Over 5 million avg. annual readership
Influence public opinion

1. National surveys - conscience freedom in health care
   - American public
   - 2,865 faith-based healthcare professionals
2. Released poll at National Press Club
5. Inform the courts

- Work with legal groups that share our values
- Medical perspective
- *Amicus curiae* (friend of court) briefs
- Over 40 cases to date
"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ..."
Issues
So many issues, so little time...

- 4,000 bills/session
- 2% pass
- Triage:
  - Life and death, faith issues
  - CMDA member priorities
  - Chance of passage
  - Public education
  - Medical contribution
  - Allies participating
Members’ priorities*

“high” + “very high” priority

- Conscience
- Abortion
- Religious liberty
- Assisted suicide
- Human trafficking
- Abstinence education
- Faith-based initiatives
- Healthcare access
- Healthcare regs
- Stem cells
- International health
- Biotechnology

*2011 survey, N=1,204.
Issues: "Speed dating" overview

1. Messaging
2. Action
3. Current
Conscience – Messaging

Conscience freedom protects patient access.

- 92% faith-based physicians would leave medicine if pressured to compromise conscience
- 88% adults: important to share similar set of morals as their doctors
- forcing pro-life docs out worsens doc shortage and patient access
Conscience - Action

Freedom2Care

- Formed coalition of 50+ organizations
- 29,000 health professionals and others
- Surveys, press conferences, media coverage
- Website – laws, news, Legislative Action Center

issues

Freedom2Care

Freedom2Care.org
Conscience – Current

- Conscience reg gutted
- Healthcare Conscience Rights Act (S 1204, HR 940)
  - Prohibit discrimination by governments if you decline to:
    - perform, train to perform, refer for abortions
  - Provide victims of discrimination the right to pursue justice in the courts.
Abortion – Messaging

- Abortion harms women
- Developing babies can feel pain as early as 20 weeks
- Pregnancy centers provide options and help
Abortion - Action

- Congressional testimony
  - Jean Wright, MD
  - David Hess, MD
  - Kathi Aultman, MD
  - David Chestnut, MD

- Led Sen. Brownback clinic regulation project

- White House
  - Obama officials

- Melinda Gates
Abortion - Current

- Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (HR 1797, S 886)
  - focuses on child’s ability to feel pain
  - bans abortions after 20-weeks
Faith-based groups help the poor and needy.

Religious liberty protects against discrimination and promotes tolerance and diversity.

A threat to one group’s First Amendment freedoms is a threat to all.
Religious liberty –
First Amendment to US Constitution

- "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;
- "or abridging the freedom of speech,
- "or of the press;
- "or the right of the people peaceably to assemble,
- "and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."
Discarding consideration of both cost and conscientious objections, the Obama administration appears poised to adopt a radical advisory board recommendation that the federal government must pay for or force others to pay for ethically controversial contraceptive drugs.

Included in the indiscriminate mandate would be controversial drugs such as ella (ulipristal acetate) and the "morning-after pill" (levonorgestrel and Drug Administration labels note the drugs "may inhibit implantation" of a living embryo. Since many physicians, patients, et al even some insurers adhere to life-and-death standards, they cannot in good conscience participate in prescribing, talking or paying for drugs. This mandate offers them no alterna-

tion. That's obviously of scant concern to the administration, which has gutted the only federal regulatory body protecting conscientious medical professionals from job-sacking discrimination. Nor does the administration consider consequential the actual cost to taxpayers and potentially business burdens that this overbearing policy will bring.

Time and again, confronted with protests the government cannot continue to willfully disregard cost and conscience, this president and his answers, "Yes, we can.

JONATHAN EKSLY
The writer is vice president for government relations, Christian Medical Association and director Freedom2Care.

Presidential candidate’s faith matters to Americans

As a Christian who unapologetically contrasted GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney’s Mormon beliefs with orthodox Christianity, law professor Stanley Fish suggests that condemning a candidate’s beliefs is the equivalent of declaring “religion not fit for political purpose” and that the Constitution is meant
ly a personal “handicap” (“Mormon’s Founders would’ve had targeted Mormons,” Monday).

The latter assertion ignores the fact that two millennia of Christian consensus reflect both in Scripture and historical events, civil and legal victories around the world that include the Trinity, the unique deity of Christ and more. The fact that Mor
can leaders do not share this worldview, Christian consensus calls for discernment rather than attitudes.

As is "declaring a religion not fit for political purpose," more typically vague. America must consider a presidential candidate’s personal faith belief, for we recognize that a worldview can guide decisions. Americans have learned much about faith and politics by observing the policies of many self-professing presidents from Washington to Lincoln to Bush and Obama.

Each of these presidents professed to support and defend the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, with Bush and whether each presented empowerment, these traits in public policy – consider honesty and integrity, for example – are tested.

What matters in politics is the same thing that matters in the Christian faith. It’s not just what you say you believe, but what you prove you believe by your actions.

Jonathan Eksly
Vice President for Government Relations
Christian Medical Association
Ashburn, Va.
Religious liberty - Current

- Same-sex marriage SCOTUS decision
- HHS abortifacients mandate - SCOTUS
- Marriage and Religious Freedom Act (S 1808)
  - "The Federal Government shall not take an adverse action against a person, on the basis that such person acts in accordance with a religious belief that marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman, or that sexual relations are properly reserved to such a marriage."
Assisted suicide / euthanasia – Messaging

- Care payers benefit from your early death.
- Inadequate safeguards: depression, medicines, notifying kin.
- Alternatives:
  - Doctors can control pain and treat depression.
  - Hospice - effective and compassionate
Assisted suicide / euthanasia -

Action

- Testimony: U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
  - Netherlands project
  - Henk Reitsema: grandfather killed without consent
  - Ed and Xandra Staneke: father: “I don’t want to die!”
  - Dr. Zbigniew Zylich: Patient victim of “bed clearing”
Assisted suicide / euthanasia – Current

- States - legalizing (Ore., Wash., Vt., Mont.)
- Federal – increasing govt. involvement in care and cost decisions
- An administration could use federal regulatory and funding policies to favor assisted suicide states
Human trafficking – Messaging

- Estimated 30% victims see health professional.
- Engaging medical specialty groups can raise awareness and help reach many victims.
- Online course: cmda.org/TIP
Human trafficking – Action

- Worked with State Dept.
- Developed plan with White House DPC
- Presented plan to Homeland Security Sec. Napolitano
Human trafficking - Current

- Dept. Homeland Security
  - Blue Campaign
- HHS
  - Rescue & Restore
- State Dept.
  - annual TIP report
Faith-based initiatives - Current

- Tax reform - threaten charitable gift tax deduction
  - Eliminate
  - Disqualify givers
  - Disqualify ministries: “public interest”
Faith-based initiatives – Messaging

- Cutting charitable gift tax deduction would decrease giving and increase cost to government
- Charity not a loophole but a *lifeline*
- Don’t tax people for giving money away to help others
Faith-based initiatives - Action

- Lobbying – Faith and Giving Coalition
  - CMDA, World Vision, ECFA, Southern Baptists…
  - Senate Finance Committee
    - Baucus (D-MT)
    - Hatch (R-UT)
    - Thune (R-SD)
    - Wyden (D-OR)
  - House Ways & Means
    - Young (R-IN)
    - Schock (R-IL)
    - Neal (D-MA)
    - Reed (R-NY)
    - Tiberi (R-OH)
International health – Messaging

- Faith-based health groups are key to fighting disease overseas
- World Health Organization
  - 30% - 70% health infrastructure - Africa owned by faith-based organizations
- Gallup World Poll
  - Africans have most confidence in the religious organizations (76%) in their countries
International health - Action

- How USG can work better with faith-based NGO's
- Surveyed CMDA missionaries
- Met with Bush, Obama USAID chiefs
International health - Current

- President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
  - conscience protections built into PEPFAR
- Global Fund - USG shifting $ to
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Mission
Methods
Issues...
✓ Conscience
✓ Abortion
✓ Religious liberty
✓ Assisted suicide
✓ Human trafficking
✓ Faith-based initiatives
✓ International health
  o Abstinence education
  o Healthcare
  o Stem cells
  o Biotechnology
✓ Engagement

Questions / Comments
Abstinence education – Messaging

- Sexual risk avoidance strategy parallels well-established risk avoidance strategies for smoking, drinking, drugs, etc.
- Polls show parents prefer it.
- Growing body research supports it.
Abstinence education - Action

- Serve with policy makers on NAEA advisory board.
- Assembled CMA members to draft document.
- Shows medical community support.
Abstinence education - Current

- Abstinence Education Reallocation Act
  (S. 13, HR 718)
  - Establishes Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA) abstinence education program
  - Lessen 16:1 funding disparity with risk reduction programs
  - Revenue-neutral
Healthcare – Messaging

- Policies should aim to preserve the patient-physician relationship.
- Provide safety net for poor.
- Reasonable reimbursement and malpractice laws preserve access to physicians.
Healthcare - Current

- HHS mandate of ACA
  - provide free contraceptives including abortifcacies
  - narrow religious exemption
  - Nearly 100 lawsuits, 200+ plaintiffs
- SCOTUS
  - Hobby Lobby – Green family
  - CMDA brief
  - oral arguments Mar. 25
  - Decision June 2014
Healthcare - Action

- HHS mandate
  - House testimony
  - Amicus briefs
  - Formal comments
  - Web site
  - Commentaries and media coverage
  - Public comments - HHS
Human embryo is how we all began life; genetically complete.

Ethical alternatives to embryo-destroying stem cell research.

Fund proven, ethical stem cell research already producing real therapies for real patients.
Stem cells - Action

- Met with President's DPC
- Invited to White House – Pres. Bush
- Executive Order
  - "prioritizes research with the greatest potential for clinical benefit"
- Overturned by Pres. Obama - March 2009
Stem cells - Current

- Patients First Act of 2013 (HR 1740)
  - prioritizes federal funding for stem cell research with the greatest potential for near-term treatments and cures
Biotechnology – Messaging

- Human cloning is scientifically unnecessary; ethical alternatives
- No human being should be created merely to meet needs of another
- Science unbridled by ethical constraints has produced horrific results
Biotechnology - Action

- Human cloning
  - Congressional staff briefing
  - Met President Bush at White House
  - Bush announced support of bill to ban cloning: "Life is a creation, not a commodity."
Human Cloning Prohibition Act (HR 2164)
- Reps. John Fleming, Andy Harris, Chris Smith
- True ban on human cloning
- Unlike other pseudo-ban "clone and kill" bills that would:
  - allow cloning a human embryo
  - mandate the embryo's destruction by two weeks
Engagement
### 3/4 CMDA members active politically

*2011 survey, N=1,204

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<td>673 people contacted</td>
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<td>227 people contacted</td>
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*17. I have contacted a legislator by phone, letter, email or visit:*
1/3 want to be even more active

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Total 1191 100%
Worldview clashes

1. **God created us for a purpose and reveals to us His standards and plan for eternal and abundant life.**

2. **We evolved by chance and we make up our own preferences to wander through this brief and futile life.**
Worldview clashes

- **Religious liberty - homosexuality**
  - Free speech, commerce
  - Penalties – hiring "discrimination"
  - **Physicians**: adoption reference, counseling

- **Abortion**
  - **Physicians**: referrals, prescriptions, certifications
  - **Students**: admissions
  - **Residents**: pressure to train

- **Conscience freedom**
  - health-related and LGBT bills

- **Assisted suicide**
  - state bills and initiatives
How you can engage

1. Call or write to your legislator
2. Testify in a congressional hearing
3. Advise congressional staff
4. Write a letter to the editor
5. Conduct media interviews
6. Serve on a federal commission
How you can engage

7. Apply for a full-time federal position
8. Lobby your specialty group
9. Publish an article in a medical journal
10. Make a presentation in grand rounds
11. Teach a Sunday School class or address a church meeting
12. Talk one-on-one with colleagues and patients
How you can engage

- Your state
  - Incorporate public policy - campus and community ministries
  - State capitals - ideal
  - Way to put faith into action, Christian witness (faith steps)