



## WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

TO: Representative Steve Kestell, Chair  
Members, Assembly Committee on Education

FROM: Kim Wadas, Associate Director *Kimberly A. Wadas*

DATE: June 2, 2011

RE: Assembly Bill 62, Administration of Drugs to Pupils

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The Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Assembly Bill 62. While supporting AB 62, which helps to ensure greater safety in the administration of drugs to pupils, the WCC would also like to take this opportunity to urge language that would insure equitable access for all schools, public and private, to drug administration training resources.

Under 2009 Wisconsin Act 160, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required to approve training for the administration of drugs and drug products to pupils in both public and private schools.

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference supports the laudable goal of insuring pupil safety by promoting modernized standards of medication administration in schools. Catholic schools recognize that with the advance of modern medicine, more pupils require specialized medical attention, especially as relates to the administration of certain medications, and Catholic school administrators will continue to educate staff on changes in practice as they arise.

However, many private and public schools do not have the resources to maintain a full-time school nurse who is readily available to assist all student health needs in every grade throughout the day. Indeed, Catholic schools often work with the parents, pupil, and the treating physician or other health care provider to ensure that the proper administration of drugs and treatment are provided for a pupil during school activities.

While the intention of Act 160 is laudable, the implementation has been difficult. In the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, for example, Catholic Mutual of Omaha Insurance aided the Archdiocese by sending two of their corporate nurses from Nebraska to train Archdiocesan school staff on drug administration skills. This proved necessary as few local medical providers would provide skills training approval as required under Act 160. Many health professionals expressed concern over hazarding personal liability by randomly and voluntarily approving skills training for school staff.

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Substitute Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 62 would maintain requirements for DPI-approved training in the administration of nonprescription and prescription drug products that are injected, inhaled, or administered rectally. The WCC asks that as schools continue to obtain training opportunities in these areas, DPI provide equal access for all schools, public and private, rural or urban, to the training resources and health care providers necessary to adequately garner DPI approval.

By working collectively in this manner, we can better support all students in their health care needs and insure student safety statewide.