



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 128:
NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION
Presented to the Assembly Committee on Health
By Barbara Sella, Associate Director
April 19, 2017**

On behalf of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, I thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in support of Assembly Bill 128.

This legislation accomplishes a very simple and straightforward objective. It affirms that funds held by public authorities are prohibited from being used to subsidize the performance of abortions.

Much like the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program, AB 128 prohibits the state's Group Insurance Board from providing health insurance that includes coverage for abortion services, with exceptions. By aligning state and federal law, AB 128 will ensure that our public policies champion the life and dignity of every human person.

Assembly Bill 128 is sensible. Indeed, twenty-one states restrict abortion coverage in public employee insurance plans, including our neighbors, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio (see Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation – April 1, 2017 data report).

Some argue that women will be denied comprehensive health care if AB 128 passes. It bears repeating that taking a human life is not health care, for it is neither healthy nor caring. As Pope Francis has written, "It is not 'progressive' to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life..." (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 214)

Others argue that AB 128 will have a disproportionate effect on women who have low incomes, have disabilities, and/or are members of minority groups. The Catholic Church understands the challenges that these women face and insists that the private and public sectors do more to help women and children in need. So, while every unborn child deserves protection, every woman deserves support to carry her child to term and, if she so chooses, to raise her child. All pregnant women deserve the best pre-natal care, maternity leave, child care, and the necessary assistance if they have a child with special needs.

We urge you to ensure that public funds in Wisconsin are not used to procure abortions. Please support AB 128.