



## WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

**September 8, 2009**  
**For Immediate Release**

### **WCC BACKS TAX CREDIT FOR TEACHERS WHO PURCHASE SCHOOL MATERIALS**

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference has endorsed legislation that provides an individual income tax deduction for the educational expenses of elementary and secondary school teachers. The proposal, Assembly Bill 140, is sponsored by Representative Kim Hixson (D – Whitewater) and more than fifty other legislators. The WCC offered written testimony for the bill before the Assembly Education Committee at a hearing held on September 8, 2009.

“Teachers play an essential part in a pupil’s educational development. They aid parents in their role as the primary educators of their children, providing daily instruction and support for students in their schools,” noted Kim Wadas, Associate Director for Education and Health Care. “As Catholics, we believe public policies should affirm the vital role of teachers and reward the charitable acts they perform, which model for our children the best in human nature.”

AB 140 is modeled on a tax credit approved by the federal government and recognizes this deduction under state statute. It also makes certain such educator expenditures will continue to be eligible for a state income tax deduction should the federal deduction ever lapse.

“Our Catholic tradition includes a call to exercise a ‘preferential option for the poor.’ This principle is advanced when those of limited means are empowered with the same opportunities provided to those who enjoy more material possessions,” stated Wadas. “Allowing teachers to claim an income tax deduction encourages them to assist low-income and other students who may need additional educational resources.”

Wadas also noted that the bill extends this credit to teachers in all schools, be they public, religious, or independent schools.

“Too often policy debates represent these schools as competitors or adversaries. In fact they are partners, all dedicated to the same end: developing productive and informed citizens. This bill recognizes the common contribution made by all educators. That is one more reason to support it,” she added.

Others supporting AB 140 include the Wisconsin Association of School Boards and the Wisconsin Education Association Council.

The committee took no action on the bill at the hearing.

-30-

The WCC’s website features a copy of the [testimony](#). For more information, contact Kim Wadas, 608/257-0004.