



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

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For Immediate Release

BISHOPS WRITE JOINT LETTER ON INSURANCE MANDATE TO COVER CONTRACEPTION

Wisconsin's bishops have called a provision in the recently enacted state budget that mandates health insurance policies cover contraceptive services as "blatantly insensitive" to the moral values of Catholics. The bishops commented on the provision in a letter to Catholics. The letter is being distributed to the state's diocesan newspapers.

This mandate takes effect early in 2010, or upon expiration of any existing contract or agreement. The mandate affects the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and the Green Bay and Madison dioceses whose employee health insurance policies are the kind that must be altered to comply with the new law when they are renewed next year. The mandate does not apply to the self-funded health insurance plans of the La Crosse and Superior dioceses.

Most states that have adopted this type of mandate include an exception for religious institutions or for certain employers. However, the provision in the Wisconsin state budget did not include such an exception.

In their letter, the bishops wrote they would continue to provide health insurance to employees as they consider their options for contesting the policy.

Diocesan leaders are assessing how to react to the mandate. WCC Executive Director John Huebscher noted that dioceses in other states with similar laws have opted to self fund their health insurance plans, but he emphasized that no diocese affected by the new law has made any decisions at this time.

"There is time to review and analyze all the options carefully and the diocesan leadership is doing just that," he said.

A copy of the [bishops' letter](#) is attached.

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