



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 206: ULTRASOUND FOR AN ABORTION

Presented to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
By Barbara Sella, Associate Director
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The Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC) strongly supports Senate Bill 206, which is a natural extension of our state's informed consent law and incorporates basic safety standards. By providing a pregnant woman the opportunity to see her unborn child through an ultrasound, SB 206 empowers her to make a more informed decision about whether or not to continue her pregnancy.

Standard medical practice already requires that abortion providers perform ultrasounds on women seeking abortions. The National Abortion Federation's *2013 Clinical Policy Guidelines* (http://www.prochoice.org/pubs_research/publications/documents/2013NAFCPGsforweb.pdf) states that "Proper use of ultrasound can inform clinical decision-making and enhance the safety and efficacy of abortion care." The *Guidelines* list specific standards that abortion providers must follow when performing an ultrasound exam. These include identifying the age and location of the fetus, and any cardiac activity.

It should be standard care that women who go to an abortion clinic see their medical records and receive medically accurate information so that they can make a fully informed decision.

In every other medical procedure, women are offered the opportunity to see their sonogram and mammogram images, chest and bone x-rays, etc. Abortion providers should routinely do the same. SB 206 makes certain that ultrasound information, which is essential to clinical decision-making, is made readily available to every patient. In a decision of this magnitude, it is essential that a woman rely on her own mental and sensory perception, without outside bias or interference.

SB 206 helps women determine their future, but we need to do more. We need to make certain that women are fully informed about all the resources that exist in the community, so that they can see that choosing life for their baby does not mean abandoning all hope for an education, for meaningful employment, and for a better life.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 206. Please give women the opportunity to see a picture that can be worth a thousand words and potentially allows two lives to thrive.