



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

TO: Senator Leah Vukmir, Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Kim Wadas, Associate Director

DATE: April 6, 2010

RE: Senate Bill 45, Administration of Drugs to Pupils

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on this legislation and urges you to support Senate Bill 45.

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

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC) 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 school administration 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. Instead, 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 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.

Senate Bill 45 removes many of the barriers schools have recently experienced in maintaining proper drug administration training and the WCC urges your support for this legislation.