

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

CAPITOL UPDATE

January 8, 2010

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USCCB Update and Action Alert on Health Care Reform

As Congress returns to work in January the debate over health care reform is at a critical point. In a nationwide bulletin insert (see below), the bishops have asked Catholics to continue their advocacy efforts: “As long-time advocates of health care reform, the U.S. Catholic bishops continue to make the moral case that genuine health care reform must protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Health care reform should not advance a pro-abortion agenda in our country.”

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) also released the following update:

The U.S. House passed health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortion coverage.

The U.S. Senate has rejected this policy and passed health care reform that requires federal funds to help subsidize and promote health plans that cover elective abortions. All purchasers of such plans will be required to pay for other people’s abortions through a separate payment solely to pay for abortion.

These two bills are being combined into one bill that both the House and Senate will vote on in final form.

Catholics need to make their voices heard insisting that health care reform protect the lives, dignity, consciences and health of all. Provisions against abortion funding and in favor of conscience protection, affordability, and immigrants’ access to health care must be part of a fair and just health care reform bill. Unless and until these criteria are met, the final bill must be opposed.

The USCCB is asking all parishes to distribute a [Nationwide Bulletin](#) insert urging Catholics to contact their Members of Congress as soon as possible. The next couple of weeks are critical.

More information can be found at www.usccb.org/healthcare, including suggested Pulpit Announcements and a Prayer Petition. Spanish versions of all materials are also available there.

Upcoming Hearings of Interest

(N.B. Only bills of interest are flagged. In most cases, committees will be considering other bills as well.)

Assembly Education

10am, Tue., Jan. 12, 417-N (GAR Hall)

[AB-616](#). **School Nurses** (Pope-Roberts) Changes affecting school nurses and administration of drugs to pupils.

Senate Judiciary, Corrections, Insurance, Campaign Finance Reform, and Housing

10am, Tue., Jan. 12, 411-S

[SB-319](#). **Sexual Contact w/child** (Lassa) Statute of limitations for sexual contact with a child.

Assembly Public Health

11:45am, Tue., Jan. 12, 400-NE

[AB-620](#). **Day Care Centers** (Benedict) Physical fitness assessments, school nutrition, quality rating system for day care centers.

New Bills of Interest

[SB-411](#). **Adoption Records** (Lazich) Disclosure of adoption records for purposes of determining the availability of a placement for a child with an adoptive parent or proposed adoptive parent of a sibling of the child. To Children and Families.

[SB-414](#). **School Nurses** (Lehman) Changes affecting school nurses and administration of drugs to pupils. To Education.

[SB-421](#). **Drunk Students** (Kedzie) Prohibits underage persons under the influence of alcohol on school premises. To Education.

[SB-449](#). **Guns at School** (Holperin) Possession of a firearm at school or under the supervision of a school authority. To Education.

[SB-451](#). **Nurse Mid-Wives** (Robson) Hospital staff privileges for and written agreements required for nurse-midwives; allows nurse mid-wives to elect to be covered under the injured patients and families compensation fund. To Health, Health Insurance, Privacy, Property Tax Relief and Revenue.

[AB-583](#). **Teacher Licenses** (Ripp) Requires passage of a supplemental examination in reading instruction to obtain a teaching license. To Education.

[AB-590](#). **Spiritual Treatments** (Berceau) Eliminates exception for spiritual treatment of a child in the law criminalizing physical abuse of a child and in laws governing the practice of medicine

or surgery; in the investigation of child abuse or neglect; administration of psychotropic medication to juveniles in correctional custody; and the election of Christian Science treatment in lieu of medical or surgical treatment. To Children and Families.

[AB-616](#). **School Nurses** (Pope-Roberts) Changes affecting school nurses and administration of drugs to pupils. To Education.

[AB-620](#). **Day Care Centers** (Benedict) Physical fitness assessments, school nutrition, quality rating system for day care centers. To Public Health.

[AB-637](#). **Children's Products** (Mason) Regulates chemicals in children's products. To Consumer Protection.

Web Sites of Interest

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/waml>

- Who are my legislators

[Directory of Senate Members](#)

[Directory of Assembly Members](#)

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/leginfo.html>

- 2009-10 Session Schedule
- Weekly Schedule of Committee Activities
- Senate and Assembly Daily Floor Calendar

Capitol Update is a periodic e-mail on legislative issues from the Wisconsin Catholic Conference.

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