

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

CAPITOL UPDATE

January 18, 2007

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Legislative Session Gets Underway

January 3rd marked the beginning of the 2007-08 Legislative session as 99 Assembly Representatives and 17 State Senators elected on November 7, 2006 took their oath of office. The Senate and Assembly both approved a scheduling resolution before adjourning until January 30. However, both houses will convene in special session to deal with the ethics reform legislation agreed to by Governor Doyle and the legislative leadership.

As with most sessions, little activity is expected until the Governor presents his biennial budget proposal early in February.

Lawmakers Signal Intentions to Address Stem Cell Research

Both supporters and opponents of embryonic stem cell research have announced their intention to introduce legislation on the subject.

State Senator Mark Miller (D-Monona), intends to offer a bill to make clear that embryonic stem cell research is legal in Wisconsin. Across the aisle, Assembly Representative Joel Kleefisch (R-Oconomowoc) announced plans to allow women to voluntarily donate amniotic fluid for stem cell research. Both bills will be introduced at a later date.

“Catholics at the Capitol” Less Than Two Months Away-- Don't Forget to Register

We are starting to receive registrations for the 2007 *Catholics at the Capitol* to be held in Madison on Tuesday, March 13.

Attendees will participate in sessions on life issues, Catholic social teaching, farming, criminal justice, health care, homelessness, parish advocacy, immigration, strengthening families, long term care, rent-to-own, and payday lending.

The day will feature an address by Deirdre McQuade, Director of Planning and Information for the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities on building a culture of life through Catholic witness and advocacy.

Registration is \$30/person, which includes continental breakfast and lunch at the Monona Terrace Convention Center. A special high school/university student rate of \$10 is available. The registration deadline is February 23, 2007. [Registration Form](#)

Legislative Resources Coming Soon

We are putting the finishing touches on legislative resources for the new session. The **Legislative Directory** that contains the names, Capitol addresses, and phone numbers for all of Wisconsin's state and federal lawmakers will be available in about one week. The WCC **Legislative Agenda for 2007** will be available shortly after the WCC Board meeting on February 15.

Governor Doyle Proclaims Catholic Schools Week

Governor Doyle has proclaimed the week of January 28-February 3, 2007 as Catholic Schools Week in Wisconsin. The proclamation coincides with the national observance of Catholic Schools Week by Catholic schools across the country. The theme for this year's observance is "Catholic Schools: The Good News in Education."

WCC Hires New Associate Director

The WCC has a new Associate Director for Education and Health Care. Kim Wadas will join the staff on February 1. Wadas has been an attorney with the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups Elder Law Center where she has specialized in Medicare-related issues. Prior to that, she worked in a Madison law firm. Wadas earned her law degree from the University of Iowa and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History from Marquette University. While at Marquette she was an Ignatius Scholar and a participant in the Les Aspin Center for Government's Washington Internship Program. She is a member of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Madison.

Capitol Update is a periodic e-mail on legislative issues from the Wisconsin Catholic Conference. To "subscribe" or "unsubscribe" please send a request to office@wisconsincatholic.org.

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