

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Capitol Update

January 21, 2011

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Legislature in Special Session on Economic Development

The Legislature continues its special session, taking up Governor Walker's economic agenda, which includes regulatory reform, limiting the ability of plaintiffs to sue businesses for the defective goods they sell and limiting damage awards, eliminating state income taxes on Health Savings Accounts contributions, providing tax cuts for businesses, and restructuring the Commerce Department.

U.S. Bishops Send Legislative Priorities and Health Care Concerns to New Congress

Wishing "to offer a constructive and principled contribution to national discussion about the values and policies that will shape our nation's future," the new president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York provided to all members of Congress the principles and priorities that guide the USCCB's public policy efforts.

The Archbishop's January 14 letter listed a wide range of issues, from protection of the most vulnerable and voiceless members of the human family, to support for marriage, alleviation of poverty, education, faith-based initiatives, internet access, health care for all, immigration reform, and international affairs.

On January 18, the chairs of the three USCCB committees affected by the new health care reform law sent a separate letter to the House of Representatives expressing their position on the current health care debate: "Rather than joining efforts to support or oppose the repeal of the recently enacted health care law, we will continue to devote our efforts to correcting serious moral problems in the current law, so health care reform can truly be life-affirming for all."

The full texts of Archbishop Dolan's letter and the joint letter on health care reform can be found at: <http://www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2011/11-014.shtml>

Save the Date: Catholics at the Capitol, April 5, 2011

Every two years, the WCC hosts *Catholics at the Capitol* when nearly 400 Catholics from around the state come to Madison for a day of formation and legislative advocacy. This year's event will feature a keynote address by the Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKI, Archbishop of Milwaukee. The WCC invites everyone to take advantage of this unique opportunity to pray with fellow Catholics, learn about issues related to Catholic social teaching, and visit with legislators and policy makers in the State Capitol.

As always, the event will be held at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison. Advanced registration will start January 31, 2011.

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>

- 2011-12 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.

Wisconsin Catholic Conference

131 W. Wilson St., Suite 1105

Madison, WI 53703

608/257-0004

www.wisconsinatholic.org

office@wisconsinatholic.org