

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

CAPITOL UPDATE

January 25, 2008

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WCC Action Alert: Contact Legislators to Oppose Assisted Suicide Bill

At a public hearing before the Senate Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term Care and Privacy, the WCC [testified](#) in opposition to [Senate Bill 151](#), which would allow persons with terminal illnesses to request medications to end their lives. Although the Committee Chair announced that there are no plans for the Committee to take further action on the bill, subscribers are urged to write to their legislators and ask them to oppose the bill.

To find your legislator, go to http://capwiz.com/wisconsin_nasccd/home/ and enter your address or zip code to get contact information for your state elected officials.

WCC Publishes *Issue Brief* on Repeal of Wisconsin's Abortion Law

As expected, Senator Mark Miller (D-Monona) has introduced a bill to repeal Wisconsin's 1849 criminal abortion statute. [Senate Bill 398](#) has not yet been scheduled for a hearing, but readers are nonetheless encouraged to read the WCC's [Issue Brief](#) and then contact their state representatives and senators, urging that it not be advanced.

Archbishop Dolan Testifies Against Bills on Child Sexual Abuse Lawsuits

Archbishop Timothy Dolan [testified](#) in opposition to companion bills that would allow victims of child abuse to file civil claims no matter how old. As reported in the last edition of the *Capitol Update*, [Senate Bill 356](#) (Sen. Julie Lassa, D-Stevens Point) and its companion, [Assembly Bill](#)

[651](#) (Rep. Scott Suder, R-Abbotsford), would, if passed: 1) open a three-year window during which anyone who was sexually assaulted as a child could bring a civil lawsuit against those responsible for the assault, including the employer of the perpetrator if the assault occurred in part because the employer was negligent; and 2) completely remove the statute of limitations for future civil actions not already time barred.

WCC Supports Bill Outlawing Partial-Birth Abortion

Representative Jim Ott (R-Mequon) has introduced a bill to revise Wisconsin's ban on partial-birth abortion, which since 2001 has not been enforceable because of constitutional flaws. [Assembly Bill 710](#) changes the current definition and penalties for partial-birth abortion to be in line with the recently upheld federal law. The bill will receive a public hearing on Thursday, January 31, in the Assembly Committee on Judiciary and Ethics (see below for time and location). The WCC will testify in support of the bill and urges subscribers to contact their legislators and ask for their support.

Assembly Passes Mandated Care for Rape Victims

Wednesday, by a vote of 61-35 (with 3 not voting), the Assembly passed [Assembly Bill 377](#), which would require that all hospitals with emergency rooms provide a victim of sexual assault with information and, upon her request, emergency contraception if she is not pregnant.

Funeral Planning Bill Heads to Governor

Last week the Senate passed [Assembly Bill 305](#). This bill would allow individuals to designate a representative who would carry out a decedent's funeral arrangements. The bill will be forwarded to the Governor for his signature.

Upcoming Hearings of Interest

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

Assembly Judiciary and Ethics

10am, Thu., Jan. 31, 225-SW.

[AB-710](#). (J. Ott) Prohibits partial-birth abortion.

New Bills of Interest

[SB-395](#). **Educators** (Plale) Adopts federal law as it relates to an income tax deduction for certain educators; creates an individual income tax deduction for educators who use their own funds to purchase classroom educational supplies. *To Education.*

[SB-398](#). **Abortions** (Miller) Eliminates certain abortion prohibitions. *To Health, Human Services, Insurance and Job Creation.*

[SB-400](#). **Education** (Taylor) Providing notice of abstinence-only education. *To Education.*

[SB-403](#). **Low Income Housing** (Taylor) Property tax exemption for low-income housing. *To Judiciary, Corrections and Housing.*

[SB-405](#). **Human Growth Instruction** (Taylor) Permits courses in human growth and development; sets requirements. *To Education.*

[AB-709](#). **Marriage Licenses** (Jeskewitz) Requires every applicant for a marriage license to present a certified copy of a birth certificate. *To Children and Family Law.*

[AB-710](#). **Partial Birth Abortion** (J. Ott) Prohibits partial-birth abortion. *To Judiciary and Ethics.*

Web Sites of Interest

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

- Who are my legislators

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

- 2007-08 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. To "subscribe" or "unsubscribe" please send a request to office@wisconsincatholic.org.

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