

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Capitol Update

February 4, 2011

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WCC Public Policy Positions for 2011

As the new legislative session begins, the WCC is sharing its [2011 Public Policy Positions](#) document with Catholics, legislators, and other policy makers. The document is organized around the seven major themes of Catholic Social Teaching. An edited version of the document follows.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

- Oppose abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and the death penalty.
- Oppose public funding of stem cell research that destroys human embryos.
- Support alternatives to abortion for women facing unplanned pregnancies.
- Support efforts to halt domestic violence and assist victims.
- Support for people who are aging, have disabilities, or are chronically or terminally ill.

Family, Community, and Participation

- Encourage and strengthen marriage between one man and one woman.
- Respect and promote family unity in taxation, employment, and welfare policies.
- Protect children from abuse and neglect.
- Support parental choice in education.
- Support strong public education.
- Promote adoption and foster care.
- Require parental consent for medical treatments, including artificial contraception.
- Promote responsible sexuality.
- Assist military personnel, veterans, and their families.
- Support family farms.

Rights and Responsibilities

- Support equitable taxation and sound fiscal policies.
- Protect religious freedom and conscience.
- Support healthy lifestyles.
- Support crime victims and restorative justice for offenders.
- Support law enforcement personnel and all who help preserve public safety.

Options for the Poor and Vulnerable

- Support affordable health care for all.
- Eliminate hunger.
- Support safe and affordable housing.
- Prohibit predatory lending.
- Return 17-year-olds to the juvenile justice system.

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

- Support living wages for workers and their families.
- Remove barriers to employment, including transportation.
- Foster employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Solidarity

- Uphold human rights of immigrants and refugees.
- Support just trade agreements and investment policies.

Care for God's Creation

- Support sustainable farming.
- Reduce toxins from our ground, water, and air.
- Encourage conservation and sustainable energy.

USCCB Supports Three Major Bills to Prevent Abortion Funding

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is supporting three bills in Congress to strengthen protections for human life and conscience.

The Protect Life Act (H.R. 358) would address deficiencies in the new health care reform law by 1) preventing taxpayer funds from subsidizing abortion or health care plans that cover abortion; 2) protecting the consciences of health care providers who do not wish to participate in abortions; and 3) ensuring that the law does not override state laws on abortion and conscience.

The Abortion Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 361) would codify the Hyde/Weldon amendment and give health care entities that do not provide abortions legal recourse when faced with government-sponsored discrimination.

Finally, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 3) would prohibit government funding of elective abortions.

For more information, see <http://www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2011/11-021.shtml>

Registration Begins for Catholics at the Capitol

Registration forms are now available for *Catholics at the Capitol* to be held on Tuesday, April 5, at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison.

Registration is \$37 per person and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Full-time students can register for \$12. The registration deadline is March 21, 2011. For registration information and form, see our website, www.wisconsinatholic.org.

New Bills of Interest

SB-6. Voter ID (Leibham) Voter ID. To Elections.

SB-8. Family Leave (Olsen) Conforming the state family and medical leave law to the federal law. To Labor.

AB-7. Voter ID (Stone) Voter ID. To Elections and Campaign Reform.

AB-12. Birth Certificates (Kestell) Restoration of information from an original birth certificate after adoption. To Children & Families.

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.

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