

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

CAPITOL UPDATE

February 5, 2010

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Legislature Passes Sex Education Bill

As reported in the last *Update*, the WCC opposed passage of [Assembly Bill 458](#), which would mandate that only so-called “comprehensive” sex education be taught in public schools as part of any human growth and development curriculum. The bill passed the Senate on an 18-15 party-line vote with one amendment approved by the Assembly. The bill is now available for the Governor to sign.

Senate Passes Public Defender Bill

Last week the Senate passed [Senate Bill 263](#) on a vote of 21-12. The bill, which would raise the income eligibility rate for persons in need of a Public Defender and increase the number of Public Defenders, is supported by the WCC ([testimony](#)).

Senate Advances Mental Health Parity Bill

By a vote of 20-13, the Senate passed the Mental Health Parity Bill ([Senate Bill 362](#)), which would require that most health insurance policies provide the same coverage for the treatment of mental health and substance abuse conditions as they would for any physical ailment. The WCC [testified](#) in favor of the bill.

Upcoming Hearings of Interest

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

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

10am, Mon, Feb 8, 411-S

[SB-478](#). **State Prisoners** (Taylor) Orders to commit state prison inmates to a mental health facility.

Committee on Health, Health Insurance, Privacy, Property Tax Relief, and Revenue
10am, Thu, Feb 11, 300-S

[SB-484](#). **BadgerCare Plus** (Erpenbach) BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan; Benchmark Plan benefits.

Senate Children and Families and Workforce Development

10am, Wed, Feb 17, 300-SE

[SB-86](#). **School Conferences** (Carpenter) Requires certain employers to grant leave for school conferences and activities to all employees.

[SB-517](#). **Children Compact** (Jauch) Creates a new Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children. To Children & Families.

New Bills of Interest

[SB-468](#). **School Interventions** (Lassa) Use of positive behavioral interventions and supports and aversive interventions in schools. To Education.

[SB-470](#). **Dementia** (Carpenter) Dementia specialists certification program. To Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term Care & Job Creation.

[SB-478](#). **State Prisoners** (Taylor) Orders to commit state prison inmates to a mental health facility. To Judiciary.

[SB-484](#). **BadgerCare Plus** (Erpenbach) BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan; Benchmark Plan benefits. To Health.

[SB-500](#). **Child Care** (Darling) Requires suspected drug activity on the part of a caregiver or nonclient resident of a child care provider to be reported to an immediate supervisor and sheriff; and suspected or threatened child abuse or neglect on the part of such individual be reported under the child abuse and neglect reporting law. To Children & Families and Workforce Development.

[SB-501](#). **Foster Parents** (Darling) Disclosure of the identity of a foster parent or treatment foster parent of a child; rights of a foster parent, treatment foster parent or other physical custodian of a child on removal from the person's home; placement of a child for adoption with a foster parent, treatment foster parent or other physical custodian of the child. To Children & Families and Workforce Development.

[SB-509](#). **School Donations** (Taylor) Creates a non-refundable individual and corporate income tax credit for contributions to certain public school programs and private school scholarship funds. To Health, Health Insurance, Privacy, Property Tax Relief & Revenue.

[SB-517](#). **Children Compact** (Jauch) Creates a new Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children. To Children & Families.

[AB-667](#). **Tax Credit** (Davis) Changes calculation of the married persons tax credit. To Ways & Means.

[AB-669](#). **MPS** (Grigsby) MPS reform. To Rules.

[AB-675](#). **Hospitals/Midwives** (Roys) Hospital staff privileges for and written agreements required for nurse-midwives and allowing nurse-midwives to be covered under the injured patients and families compensation fund. To Health and Healthcare Reform.

[AB-676](#). **Sex Offenders** (Smith) Notification to a parent before chaperoning a sex offender. To Corrections & the Courts.

[AB-678](#). **School Trespass** (Staskunas) Changes penalties for certain trespass on school premises. To Education.

[AB-681](#). **Prison Inmates** (Pasch) Orders to commit state prison inmates to a mental health facility. To Corrections & the Courts.

[AB-682](#). **School Interventions** (Pasch) Use of positive behavioral interventions and supports and aversive interventions in schools. To Education.

[AB-684](#). **Dementia Specialists** (Krusick) Dementia specialist certification. To Aging & Long-Term Care.

[AB-690](#). **Tax Exemption** (Dexter) Sales/use tax exemption for food sold by child welfare facilities. To Children & Families. To Tax Exemptions.

[AB-695](#). **Child Care** (Gundrum)) Requires suspected drug activity on the part of a caregiver or nonclient resident of a child care provider to be reported to an immediate supervisor and sheriff and suspected or threatened child abuse or neglect on the part of such individual be reported under the child abuse and neglect reporting law. To Children & Families.

[AB-697](#). **BadgerCare** (Richards) BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan, Benchmark Plan benefits. To Health & Healthcare Reform.

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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