

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

CAPITOL UPDATE

February 6, 2009

Please note the *Capitol Update* will now be distributed using the Wisconsin Catholic Conference's e-advocacy service.

Contents Include:

1. WCC Protests Votes on Second-Trimester Abortions
2. WCC Supports Minimum Wage Bill
3. Registration Continues for *Catholics at the Capitol*
4. WCC and Other Religious Leaders Issue Letter on Protecting the Poor
5. Upcoming Hearings of Interest
6. New Bills of Interest
7. Web Sites of Interest

WCC Protests Votes on Second-Trimester Abortions

The WCC issued a [press release](#) strongly protesting the decision of the UW Hospital and Clinics Authority Board to allow second-trimester abortions at the Madison Surgery Center. Readers are urged to continue to contact UW Hospital and Clinics and Meriter Hospital to express their opposition to the plan.

Ms. Donna Katen-Bahensky
President and CEO
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
600 Highland Ave.
Madison, WI 53792-8350
Fax: (608) 263-9830

Jeffrey Grossman, M.D.
President and CEO
University of Wisconsin
Medical Foundation
600 Highland Ave.
Madison, WI 53792-8310
Fax: (608) 265-1642

James L. Woodward
President and CEO
Meriter Hospital
202 S. Park Street
Madison, WI 53715
Fax: (608) 417-6357

WCC Supports Minimum Wage Bill

The WCC presented [testimony](#) in favor of [SB 1](#), which would increase the minimum wage to \$7.60 and to provide for inflation indexing. The bill passed out of Committee and is scheduled for a floor vote on Tuesday, February 10.

Registration Continues for *Catholics at the Capitol*

Registration forms are now available for *Catholics at the Capitol* to be held on Tuesday, March 31, at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison.

Registration is \$33 per person and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. High school and university students can register for \$10. The registration deadline is March 12. [Registration form](#).

WCC and Other Religious Leaders Issue Letter on Protecting the Poor

Representatives of four state religious groups—the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, the Wisconsin Jewish Conference, the Wisconsin Council of Churches, and the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin—issued a joint [letter](#) to Governor Doyle, urging him to protect the needs of the poor as he prepares the state budget.

Upcoming Hearings of Interest

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

Senate Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term Care, and Job Creation

10am, Mon., Feb. 9, 411 South

[SB-3](#). (Robson) Health insurance coverage of treatment for autism spectrum disorders.

[SB-16](#). (Risser) Permitting a mother to breast-feed in any public or private location where she is otherwise authorized to be.

Assembly Financial Institutions

10am, Wed., Feb. 11, 328 NW

Mortgage Foreclosure Crisis

Testimony from invited speakers only.

Assembly Housing

10am, Wed., Feb. 11, 400 NE

The State of the Housing Market and Foreclosures in Wisconsin

Testimony from invited speakers only.

Assembly Renewable Energy and Rural Affairs

10am, Thu., Feb. 12, 225 NW

Wisconsin Energy Issues

Testimony from invited speakers only.

Assembly Workforce Development

10am, Thu., Feb. 12, 225 NW

Issues Surrounding Workforce Development

Testimony from invited speakers only.

Senate and Assembly Education

1:30pm, Thu., Feb. 12, 412 E

Joint Hearing on Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education

Testimony from invited speakers only.

New Bills of Interest

[SB-3](#). **Autism** (Robson) Health insurance coverage of treatment for autism spectrum disorders.

[SB-16](#). **Breastfeeding** (Risser) Permitting a mother to breast-feed in any public or private location where she is otherwise authorized to be.

[SB-45](#). **Health Savings Accounts** (Darling) Creates a non-refundable income tax credit for certain amounts of health savings account contributions that may be deducted or are exempt from federal income taxes. To Health, Health Insurance, Privacy, Property Tax Relief & Revenue.

[AB-15](#). **Autism** (Hixson) Health insurance coverage of treatment for autism spectrum disorders. To Insurance.

[AB-22](#). **Housing, Employment Discrimination** (Schneider) Prohibits discrimination in housing because of arrest or conviction record; creates a Class I felony for discrimination in employment or housing due to arrest or conviction record. To Housing.

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.

Wisconsin Catholic Conference
131 W. Wilson St., Suite 1105
Madison, WI 53703
608/257-0004
www.wisconsincatholic.org
office@wisconsincatholic.org