

Capitol Update

February 18, 2011

Contents Include:

1. WCC Statement on the Rights of Workers and the Value of Unions
2. Governor to Present Biennial State Budget Next Week
3. U.S. Bishops Laud House Committee Vote on Protect Life Act
4. U.S. Bishops and Catholic Relief Services Urge Congress to Put Poor First
5. Registration Continues for *Catholics at the Capitol 2011*
6. New Bills of Interest

WCC Statement on the Rights of Workers and the Value of Unions

Amidst the public debate over the budget deficit repair bill (special session companion bills [SS-SB 11](#) and [SS-AB 11](#)), Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI this week issued a [statement](#) on behalf of all Wisconsin bishops reiterating Catholic teaching on the rights of workers, the role of unions, and the necessity for all interested parties to work together for the common good in this current fiscal crisis.

Governor to Present Biennial State Budget Next Week

Governor Walker is scheduled to present his two-year state budget on Tuesday, February 22nd. The WCC will provide a summary of items of interest in a special Capitol Update.

U.S. Bishops Laud House Committee Vote on Protect Life Act

This week, the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) hailed the approval in committee of the Protect Life Act (H.R. 358). As reported in the last Capitol Update, the Act would apply longstanding federal policies on abortion funding, and conscience rights on abortion, to the new health care reform or Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). The bill is now available for consideration by the entire House.

U.S. Bishops and Catholic Relief Services Urge Congress to Put Poor First

In two letters to Congress this week, U.S. bishops and Catholic Relief Services reminded members of Congress that setting budget priorities involves moral choices and urged them not to make deep cuts in poverty-focused international assistance.

For more information, see <http://www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2011/11-032.shtml>

Registration Continues for *Catholics at the Capitol 2011*

Registration forms are now available for *Catholics at the Capitol* to be held on Tuesday, April 5th, 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. [Registration form](#).

New Bills of Interest

[SS-SB 11](#) Budget Deficit (Senate Organization) Budget deficit reduction bill. To Joint Finance.

[SS-AB 11](#) Budget Deficit (Assembly Organization) Budget deficit reduction bill. To Joint Finance.

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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