

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

CAPITOL UPDATE

March 14, 2008

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Legislature Adjourns Regular Session

The Senate and Assembly have adjourned their Regular Session for 2007-08. All bills that did not pass both houses are therefore dead.

The Governor has called a Special Session in order to deal with the budget shortfall. That session started March 12, 2008.

As the legislature now stands adjourned until January, the WCC will be issuing the *Capitol Update* less frequently. The next *Update* will include a summary of the regular session and any updates on the special session for the budget.

WCC Testifies against Pharmacist Mandate

The WCC [testified](#) last week in opposition to [Senate Bill 232](#), which would have forced every pharmacist in Wisconsin to promptly dispense FDA-approved contraceptives and would have redefined abortion in state statutes. Yesterday, on the last day of the session, the original author of the bill, Senator Judy Robson (D-Beloit), introduced a substitute amendment that eliminated the language redefining abortion, but included the pharmacist mandate. The amended bill passed the Senate by a vote of 19-14, but with no hope of advancement as the Assembly had already adjourned for the 2007-08 session.

WCC Comments on Payday Loan Proposal

The WCC offered written [testimony](#) this week on a legislative proposal (LRB 2221/3) that would further regulate the payday loan industry. The proposal was not introduced and, therefore, could not be considered by the legislature this session, but the author, Senator Jim Sullivan (D-Wauwatosa) has indicated that he will be holding hearings across the state over the summer, and will reintroduce his proposal when the legislature reconvenes in January.

WCC Supports Darfur Divestment Resolution

In written [testimony](#) this week, the WCC supported [Senate Resolution 28](#), which would divest the State of Wisconsin Investment Board investments in certain companies with ongoing business operations in Sudan. The Senate passed the resolution on March 13 by a voice vote.

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.

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