

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

CAPITOL UPDATE

April 13, 2007

Contents Include:

1. US Senate Votes on Two Embryonic Stem Cell Bills
2. Cover the Uninsured Week, April 23-29, 2007
3. Upcoming Hearings of Interest
4. New Bills of Interest

US Senate Votes on Two Embryonic Stem Cell Bills

By a vote of 63-64, the US Senate voted this Wednesday on Senate Bill 5, which would provide public funding for embryonic stem cell research. The vote fell three votes short of the 67 votes needed to override President Bush's promised veto. On the same day, Senators voted 70-28 to pass Senate Bill 30, which would allow federal funding for stem cell research that does not involve the taking of human life. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops strongly opposes S. 5 and supports S. 30.

On a related note, *The Journal of the American Medical Association* just published the [results](#) of a new clinical trial that, for the first time, used adult stem cells to reverse juvenile diabetes.

Cover the Uninsured Week, April 23-29, 2007

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Health Association of the United States will again co-sponsor "Cover the Uninsured Week" taking place April 23-29, 2007. Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the purpose of this effort is to focus the nation's attention on the 46 million Americans who lack any form of health insurance. The USCCB has joined with ecumenical and interfaith partners in educating the public and policymakers about the need for affordable and accessible health care for all.

For details on activities in your area, visit the "Cover the Uninsured Week" website, CoverTheUninsuredWeek.org and click on "What's Happening." You can also check the Catholic Health Association's website, www.chausa.org, for materials.

Upcoming Hearings of Interest

Senate Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy, Informational Hearing, 10:30 am, Wed., April 18, 330-Southwest.

Government Programs Currently Affecting Wisconsin Seniors: The committee will hear testimony from invited speakers relating to current Wisconsin programs affecting seniors, including SeniorCare, Wisconsin's Elderly Benefit Specialist/Legal Assistance Program and

Wisconsin's Volunteer Ombudsman Program. The hearing will begin upon completion of the scheduled executive session.

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, Public Hearing, 10 am, Wed., April 25, 411-South.

[SB-129](#) Requires a hospital to provide to a sexual assault victim information and, upon her request, emergency contraception.

Legislative Council Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families, 10 am, Mon., April 30, Legislative Council Conference Room, Suite 401, 1 E. Main St.

Discussion of:

Memo No. 6 - *Options for Legislation on Strengthening Wisconsin Families* (Jan. 3, 2007).

WLC: 0075/1 - collaborative systems of care for families with children who are involved in multiple systems of care.

WLC: 0103/1 - the Wisconsin Technical College System and higher education financial aid eligibility.

New Bills of Interest

[SB-129](#) **Treatment of Sexual Assault Victims** (Robson) Requires a hospital to provide to a sexual assault victim information and, upon her request, emergency contraception. *To Health and Human Services.*

[SB-130](#) **Minimum Wage** (Decker) Increases state minimum wage. *To Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs.*

[AB-211](#) **Payday Loans** (Nelson) Limits finance charges for licensed lenders. *To Financial Institutions.*

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