

# WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

# CAPITOL UPDATE

April 23, 2010

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## Legislature Adjourns Regular Session

The Senate and Assembly have adjourned for 2009-10. All bills that did not pass both houses are therefore dead. A summary of the session will appear in the next *Capitol Update*. As the Legislature now stands adjourned until January, the WCC will be issuing the *Capitol Update* less frequently.

## Wisconsin Passes Mental Health Parity Act

The Legislature passed [Senate Bill 362](#), which ensures that those who work for businesses with 50 or fewer employees and who suffer from mental illness or substance abuse issues will receive the same care and treatment as those who have physical health issues. The bill includes an exemption for employers with fewer than 10 employees. Governor Doyle is expected to sign the bill. The WCC submitted written [testimony](#) in support.

## Regulation of Payday Lending Industry Passes

The Legislature passed [Senate Bill 530](#), which regulates payday loans and auto title loans, allows only one rollover per loan, and limits the locations in which payday lenders can operate. It also establishes a statewide database and gives the Department of Financial Institutions regulatory authority. Governor Doyle is expected to sign the bill into law. The WCC provided [testimony](#) for information.

## Employee Discrimination Prevention Bill Passes

The Legislature passed [Senate Bill 585](#), which prohibits discrimination against an employee who declines to attend an employer-sponsored meeting or to participate in any communication with the employer or employer's agent if the purpose is to communicate opinions about religious or political matters. Governor Doyle is expected to sign the bill. The WCC provided [testimony](#) for information.

## Lifting Statute of Limitations on Abuse Claims Fails to Pass

Among the bills that failed to pass at the end of the session were two companion bills, [Assembly Bill 453](#) and [Senate Bill 319](#), which would have temporarily suspended the statute of limitations

on claims of child sexual abuse and permit civil suits, no matter how old, to be brought in court against both alleged perpetrators and their employers. The bills would also have permanently removed the statute of limitations for future civil actions. The WCC opposed the legislation.

## **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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