

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

CAPITOL UPDATE

April 27, 2007

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Joint Finance Committee Removes Policy Items from Budget

In recent years, one of the early decisions made by the Joint Finance Committee in each budget process is that of removing some of the “policy items” in the budget. Last week the Committee removed dozens of items, which now will most likely have to be drafted as separate bills if they are to survive. These include proposals to:

- Modify the “truth in sentencing” law
- Rename and change the authority of the Parole Commission
- Modify the campaign finance appropriation
- Allow staff and faculty of the UW system to engage in collective bargaining
- Enact a statewide cap on licensed nursing home beds
- Extend “domestic partner benefits” to state employees
- Modify high school graduation requirements

WCC Testifies on Mandated Care for Rape Victims

The WCC this week offered [testimony](#) for information on [SB-129](#) (Judy Robson, D-Beloit), which would require that all hospitals with emergency rooms provide a victim of sexual assault with information and, upon her request, emergency contraception.

New Bills of Interest

[SB-151](#). **Assisted Suicide** (Risser) Permits certain individuals to make written requests for medication for the purpose of ending their lives. *To Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy.*

[AB-274](#). **Minimum Wage** (Mason) Increases minimum wage; provides for inflationary adjustments. *To Jobs and the Economy.*

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.

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