

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

CAPITOL UPDATE

May 25, 2007

Contents Include:

1. WCC Testifies against Four-Year-Old Kindergarten Bill
2. State Budget Developments
3. Senate Passes Mandated Care for Rape Victims
4. New Bills of Interest

WCC Testifies against Four-Year-Old Kindergarten Bill

[Assembly Bill-165](#) (Rep. Donald Friske, R-Merrill) would eliminate the requirement that a school district provide transportation for four-year-old kindergarten pupils attending nonpublic schools, if the district's public schools do not also offer four-year-old kindergarten. The WCC offered [testimony](#) in opposition to the bill, which received a public hearing this week. The committee has not yet taken any action on the bill.

State Budget Developments

Department of Public Instruction

- The Committee rejected a motion, known as "One Family, One School, One Check," to restrict transportation payments to a family with several children attending the same nonpublic school by reimbursing the family as if they had only one child attending the school. The WCC opposed the proposal and similar measures in a [memo](#) to the Committee. Rep. Sheldon Wasserman (D-Milwaukee) is expected to introduce this proposal in the Assembly as a separate bill.

Wisconsin Works (W-2)

- The Governor's budget proposed extending W-2 benefits to women who do not have children, but who are in the third-trimester of an at-risk pregnancy and are therefore unable to work. The Joint Committee on Finance deleted this provision from the budget. The WCC supported the proposal in a [memo](#) to the Committee.
- The Governor proposed a pilot program to give 500 W-2 recipients the opportunity to be placed in real jobs and to earn real wages. The Committee altered the budget, agreeing to fund 100 people instead. The WCC supported the pilot in a [memo](#) to the Committee.
- The Committee approved spending over \$70 million to fully fund Wisconsin Share, the W-2 program that provides assistance to low-income families to pay for child care. The WCC supported this action.

Because of the Joint Finance work on the budget, the Senate and Assembly will not be in session for the remainder of May. The next Assembly session will be on June 6.

Senate Passes Mandated Care for Rape Victims Bill

Last week, by a vote of 27-6, the Senate passed [SB-129](#), which would require that all hospitals with emergency rooms provide a victim of sexual assault with information and, upon her request, emergency contraception. The bill now goes to the Assembly.

New Bills of Interest

[AB-345](#) **School Transportation** (Mursau) Transportation aids to school districts. *To Education.*

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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