

## WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

# CAPITOL UPDATE

July 27, 2007

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### WCC Issues State Budget Recommendations

The Conference Committee on the budget bill began meeting on Wednesday, July 25, to hammer out the details of the 2007-09 budget. The committee equally represents both major parties, and membership is split between the two houses of the legislature. Senate committee members are Senate Majority Leader Judy Robson (D-Beloit), Joint Finance Committee co-chair Russ Decker (D-Weston), Senator Bob Jauch (D-Poplar), and Senate Minority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau). Representing the Assembly are House Speaker Mike Huebsch (R-West Salem), Assembly Majority Leader Jeff Fitzgerald (R-Horicon), Assembly Joint Finance co-chair Kitty Rhoades (R-Hudson), and Assembly Minority Leader Jim Kreuser (D-Kenosha).

After opening remarks, the Conference Committee started by reviewing all the items that were agreed upon by the Joint Finance Committee on a bipartisan vote, but were subsequently changed in the Senate or Assembly versions of the budget. Committee efforts gained little traction, however, as both sides failed to agree on an appropriate starting point for the discussion. As of the end of the day on Wednesday, the Committee had yet to produce a single budget agreement. The Committee is set to meet again on August 1, 2007.

Prior to the commencement of the Conference Committee's first meeting, the Wisconsin Catholic Conference distributed a [memo](#) to members, identifying budget initiatives that the WCC supports. The WCC urged the legislature to forward a budget that protects human life, promotes families and pursues social justice.

### New Bills of Interest

**[SB-232. Contraceptives](#)** (Robson) Prohibits pharmacist from refusing to fill prescriptions for contraceptives; defines abortion (Birth Control Protection Act). *To Health and Human Services.*

### 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](mailto:office@wisconsincatholic.org).

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