

# Capitol Update

December 16, 2011

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## **Wisconsin Bishops Release Letter on Immigration**

On December 12, the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Wisconsin's bishops released a pastoral letter, "[Traveling Together in Hope](#)" and a [Question and Answer](#) resource to educate Catholics about the need for comprehensive immigration reform. Spanish versions of both documents are available on the WCC website at [www.wisconsinatholic.org](http://www.wisconsinatholic.org).

## **WCC Supports Bill to Ban Coercive and Webcam Abortions**

On December 13, the WCC presented [testimony](#) in support of [Senate Bill 306](#) (Sen. Mary Lazich, R-New Berlin) at a public hearing before the Senate Health Committee. The bill would require 1) that the physician performing the abortion assess whether the woman is in fact consenting voluntarily to the abortion; 2) the repeal of state statute 940.04(3) and (4), which cannot be enforced because it is superseded by s. 940.13 (i.e., s.940.13 prohibits the prosecution of women who obtain abortions); and 3) prohibiting Wisconsin doctors from participating in chemical abortions over the web. The Committee took no further action on the bill.

## **USCCB Supports Extending Unemployment Insurance**

In a December 12 [letter](#) to Congress, Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, California, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) called for assisting the unemployed. Unless Congress extends emergency unemployment programs, at the end of the year many unemployed workers throughout the country and their families will lose the basic income security that is provided to them through their unemployment benefits. The USCCB is asking citizens to contact

members of the Senate, urging them to extend unemployment benefits: [Contact Senate Members Now](#)

### **Upcoming Hearings of Interest**

(N.B. Only bills of interest are flagged. In most cases, committees will be considering other bills as well.)

Special Committee on Review of Emergency Detention and Admission of Minors under Chapter 51LC

10am, Mon., Dec. 19, Conference Room One East Main St., Suite 401

Review of legislative options regarding emergency detention, treatment of minors, involuntary commitment, composition of county community programs boards, and other mental health issues. If testimony is taken, it will be by invitation only.

### **New Bills of Interest**

[SB-331](#). **Well-Woman Program** (Grothman) Public entities that receive state funding through the Wisconsin Well–Woman Program may provide the funds to other entities provided that the recipient does not provide abortions, make referrals for abortion services, or have an affiliate that provides abortions or makes referrals for abortion services. *To Health.*

[AB-413](#). **Concealed Carry** (JCRAR) Training requirements for licenses to carry a concealed weapon. *To Judiciary and Ethics.*

[AB-423](#). **Hurting Children** (Jorgenson) Intentionally causing bodily harm to a child. *To Criminal Justice and Corrections.*

### **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>

- 2011-12 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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