

## WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

# Capitol Update

May 27, 2011

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### **WCC Testifies in Support of Abortion Opt-Out in Health Care Exchange**

As reported in the last *Update*, [Senate Bill 92](#) (Sen. Rich Zipperer, R-Pewaukee) prohibits a qualified health plan offered through any exchange operating in Wisconsin from covering any abortion that is ineligible for federal or state funding. The WCC presented [testimony](#) in support of SB 92 at a public hearing on May 25<sup>th</sup> in the Senate Public Health, Human Services and Revenue Committee. The Committee took no further action on the bill.

### **Joint Finance Committee Cuts Family Planning Funds to Abortion Providers**

By a vote of 12 to 4, the Joint Finance Committee approved a motion to prohibit family planning services funding for organizations that perform abortions or do abortion referrals, or the subsidiaries of organizations that perform abortions or do abortion referrals. The WCC supported the action.

### **WCC Testifies in Support of Changes to Milwaukee Parental Choice Program**

The WCC submitted [testimony](#) supporting [Assembly Bill 94](#) before the Senate Committee on Education, sponsored by Representative Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) and Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine). The legislation would institute administrative changes to the MPCP designed to facilitate ease of administration. The bill would institute a number of changes, including allowing schools to receive one payment for all MPCP pupils attending a school (as opposed to the current practice of issuing separate checks from the state for each participating child), to altering audit standards to align with American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. An adopted amendment to AB 94 also allows a participating student, or the sibling of a participating student, that is initially

eligible for the MPCP program by having a household income of 175 percent of federal poverty level or less, to remain eligible for the program regardless of income.

### **Interfaith Letter on Conceal and Carry of Weapons**

The WCC has issued a joint [letter](#) with other faith-based groups, calling on legislators to prohibit the carrying of concealed weapons in houses of worship. On May 23, Senator Pam Galloway (R-Wausau) introduced a substitute amendment to [Senate Bill 93](#) (also known as the “constitutional carry” bill), which would still allow CCW without a permit or training, but would allow gun owners to apply for an optional permit if they wish to travel to other states that require permits, or if they wish to carry a concealed weapon within 1,000 feet of school grounds. The bill passed in committee and now awaits action in the Senate.

### **Immigration Bill Proposed**

Representative Don Pridemore (R-Hartford) stated that he has introduced legislation requiring law enforcement to act when they suspect a law has been broken and the perpetrator may be here illegally. A bill number is not yet available.

### **Payday Lending Regulation Introduced**

Legislators have introduced two bipartisan, companion bills to limit the interest rates that payday lenders may charge. [Senate Bill 99](#) (Sen. Glenn Grothman, R-West Bend) and [Assembly Bill 150](#) (Rep. Evan Wynn, R-Whitewater) would limit the interest rate that a payday loan licensee may charge on a payday loan, before the maturity date, to an annual percentage rate of 36 percent. A payday loan on which a greater rate of interest is charged would not be enforceable. The bills would also expand the class of creditors that are considered "licensed lenders." Lenders, other than a financial institution, that make consumer loans exceeding \$5,000 in principal amount would become subject to the aforesaid licensing requirements and the 36 percent interest rate cap.

### **Upcoming Hearings of Interest**

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

Assembly Education

10:15am, Thursday, June 2, 417 N

[AB-122](#). **Unpardoned Felons** (Thiesfeldt) Permits an educational agency to refuse to employ or to terminate from employment an unpardoned felon. To Education.

[AB-62](#). **Drugs** (Kestell) Administration of medication to pupils.

### **New Bills of Interest**

[SB-95](#). **School Flexibility** (Olsen) Granting high school credit for extracurricular sports; services provided by a special education program; transportation aid paid to school districts; the use of moneys received by a school district from the common school fund; using the results of standardized examinations to evaluate, discharge, suspend, or discipline a teacher or for the nonrenewal of a teacher's contract; the number of teaching days scheduled in the Milwaukee Public Schools; permitting a school district to limit the grades in which to reduce class size under the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education Program; permitting a school board to deny enrollment to a pupil who has been expelled from an out-of-state school or from an independent charter school in this state and permitting an independent charter school to expel a pupil; use of law enforcement records to take disciplinary action against a pupil under a school district's athletic code; and changing the date by which a school district must certify the amount of its property tax levy. To Education.

[SB-99](#). **Payday Loans** (Grothman) Interest rates on payday loans and loans by licensed lenders. To Financial Institutions and Rural Issues.

[AB-130](#). **School Flexibility** (Kestell) Granting high school credit for extracurricular sports; services provided by a special education program; transportation aid paid to school districts; the use of moneys received by a school district from the common school fund; using the results of standardized examinations to evaluate, discharge, suspend, or discipline a teacher or for the nonrenewal of a teacher's contract; the number of teaching days scheduled in the Milwaukee Public Schools; permitting a school district to limit the grades in which to reduce class size under the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education Program; permitting a school board to deny enrollment to a pupil who has been expelled from an out-of-state school or from an independent charter school in this state and permitting an independent charter school to expel a pupil; use of law enforcement records to take disciplinary action against a pupil under a school district's athletic code; and changing the date by which a school district must certify the amount of its property tax levy. To Education

[AB-136](#). **Crimes Against Children** (Mason) Mandatory minimum sentences and extended supervision for certain crimes against children. To Criminal Justice and Corrections.

**AB-150. Payday Loans** (Wynn) Limits the interest rate a payday loan licensee may charge to an annual percentage rate of 36%, and expands the class of creditors. To Financial Institutions.

**AB-154. Abortion** (Vos) Prohibits coverage of abortions through health plans sold through exchanges. To Insurance.

### **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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