

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Capitol Update

September 16, 2011

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Legislature in Recess

Following the August recess, the Legislature resumed its floor period for one day on Tuesday, September 13, and then adjourned again. Committee hearings will continue to be held in this interim period. The next scheduled floor period is set to run from October 18 to November 3.

USCCB Nationwide Bulletin Insert on Federal Mandate

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has issued a [Nationwide Bulletin Insert](#) for distribution in parishes on the weekend of September 24-25.

Catholics are asked to submit comments to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by September 30, urging HHS to remove the mandate requiring private health plans to fully cover contraception and sterilization. Instead, the rule should allow all organizations and individuals to offer, sponsor and obtain health coverage that does not violate their moral and religious convictions.

For additional information, see the USCCB's [webpage](#), along with the WCC's [letter](#) to HHS Sec. Sebelius and the WCC [Action Alert](#).

USCCB Action Alert on Human Trafficking

The USCCB has issued an [Action Alert](#), urging Catholics to contact their Senators to ask that they support the *Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act* (TVPA), which expires on September 30, 2011. The TVPA gives the U.S. government authority to prevent trafficking in persons; prosecute those who profit from it; and protect victims. Catholic Relief Services partners with U.S. government agencies and others to prevent trafficking and protect victims in more than 35 countries around the world.

U.S. Bishops' Letter to Super Committee on Deficit Reduction

As the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction meets to address the issue of long term budget deficit reduction, the bishops who lead the international and domestic policy committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) have sent a [letter](#) urging super committee members to remember the poor and vulnerable in their deliberations.

“The moral measure of this historic process is not which party wins or which powerful interests prevail, but rather how the jobless, hungry, homeless and poor are treated,” wrote Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, New York, and Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, California.

New Bills of Interest

[SB-163. Choice Program](#) (Taylor) Requires teachers and administrators employed by and owners of private schools participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program and in the choice program for other eligible school districts to be subject to the background investigation requirements and employment restrictions imposed upon teachers in public schools. To Education.

[SB-172. Fetal Body Parts](#) (Grothman) Penalties for sale and use of fetal body parts. To Judiciary, Utilities, Commerce and Government Operations.

[SB-174. Choice Program](#) (Ellis) Closes the parental choice program for eligible school districts to additional school districts. To Education.

[SB-175. Homestead Tax Credit](#) (Lasee) Reduces eligibility for homestead tax credits; prohibits amended tax returns to claim the credit. To Public Health, Human Services and Revenue.

[SB-179. Private Schools](#) (Lassa) Requires private schools providing child care for children under three to be licensed to operate a child care center. To Education.

[SB-187. Minimum Wage](#) (Wirch) Increases the state minimum wage. To Labor, Public Safety, and Urban Affairs.

[AB-215. Private Schools/Child Care](#) (Bernard Schaber) Requires a private school providing child care for children under three to be licensed to operate a child care center. To Education.

[AB-222](#). **Immigrants** (Mursau) Requires documentary evidence of citizenship or satisfactory immigration status for public assistance programs. To Homeland Security and State Affairs.

[AB-227](#). **MPCP** (Grigsby) Requires teachers and administrators employed by owners of private schools participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program and the choice program for other eligible school districts to be subject to background investigation requirements and employment restrictions imposed on public school teachers. To Education.

[AB-239](#). **Sex Offenders** (Kleefisch) Notification requirements for persons who must register as sex offenders and who are on school premises. To Criminal Justice and Corrections.

[AB-243](#). **Student Sexual Assault** (Sinicki) Penalty for sexual assault of a student by a member of a school staff. To Education.

[AB-244](#). **Homestead Tax Credit** (Thiesfeldt) Restricts eligibility for the homestead tax credit. To Housing.

[AB-255](#). **FoodShare Benefits** (E. Coggs) Restores FoodShare benefits for legal immigrants. To Public Health and Public Safety.

[AB-258](#). **Corrections** (E. Coggs) Requires the Department of Corrections to increase participation in work release and treatment programs. 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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