



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

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For Immediate Release

WCC SUPPORTS EXPANSION OF MANDATORY REPORTING BY SCHOOL STAFF

The Assembly recently passed a measure already approved by the Wisconsin Senate, Senate Bill 42, sponsored by Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine). The bill would expand mandatory reporting in Wisconsin, requiring all school personnel in both public and private schools to report the suspected abuse or neglect of children to the proper authorities. The bishops of Wisconsin supported amending the original version of this bill to expand reporting requirements to all school staff, including those serving in private schools.

“Catholic schools in Wisconsin already require reporting by all school staff and have since the enactment of the Church’s *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*,” noted WCC Executive Director John Huebscher. “This legislation ensures that the protection of children remains a priority in all schools, including Catholic schools.”

The passage of Senate Bill 42 will ensure a quick and necessary response to allegations of misconduct in schools, protect those who make a good faith report of abuse and neglect, and promote greater vigilance and safety for Wisconsin’s students.

The bill awaits the Governor’s signature.

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