



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**CATHOLIC CONFERENCE BACKS
PROTECTION OF HUMAN EMBRYOS**

The public policy voice of Wisconsin's Catholic bishops is urging members of the Joint Committee on Finance to adopt a motion to prevent the use of tax dollars to fund research that destroys human embryos.

"Our support for an amendment protecting embryos from destruction is grounded in the same ethic that grounds our support for a higher minimum wage and adequate funding for programs like Medicaid and Badgercare - an ethic that affirms the inviolable dignity of every human being," wrote Executive Director John Huebscher in a memo to the Committee. "No person is a means to someone else's end - even when those ends are laudable."

"Each of us is vulnerable at some point in our lives. All of us are vulnerable before we are born. Many of us are vulnerable in the market place, at moments of illness or at other times," Huebscher wrote. "But being weak or vulnerable does not deprive us of our moral claim on the community to respect our human value. Even in times of fiscal austerity, we must go the extra mile and exercise a "preferential option" for the embryo, the low wage worker, the family without health insurance and others who are similarly vulnerable."

"Destroying embryos is not the only avenue open to medical advances. Research relying on adult stem cells has led to numerous, effective treatments and is paving the way for additional future cures. Generations from now, people will wonder why we felt it necessary to destroy life to cure diseases. Let's act in such a way that they won't ask that about Wisconsin," he concluded.