



## WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

TO: Representative Clint Moses, Chair  
Members, Assembly Committee on Health, Aging and Long-Term Care

FROM: Tia Izzia, Associate Director for Human Life & Social Concerns

DATE: January 22, 2024

RE: Opposition to Assembly Bill 975, 14 Week Abortion Referendum

---

On behalf of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of the bishops of Wisconsin, thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to Assembly Bill 975, prohibiting abortion at 14 or more weeks and requiring a referendum before going into effect.

The Heal Without Harm (HWH) Coalition, comprised of Wisconsin Right to Life, Pro-Life Wisconsin, Wisconsin Family Action, and the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, opposes the introduction of an abortion referendum during a time when the current state abortion ban, Wis. Stat. 940.04, continues to proceed through the court system. The HWH Coalition will continue to defend 940.04, a lifesaving law which saved over 1,500 lives since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. We ask the Legislature to wait until the court challenges are resolved before proposing new abortion limits.

In the meantime, there is much that can be done to make abortion unthinkable. Each of us has a responsibility to make our state a place where mothers are not pitted against their children. We can do more to make our state a place where mothers who choose to raise their children and those who choose adoption are supported. We can do more to make Wisconsin a state where families want to come and can afford to stay.

As a Coalition, we call on the Assembly to pass bills that embrace both mothers and children: AB 114 extending postpartum care to a year after birth, AB 343 increasing the tax exemption for dependents and including preborn children, AB 344 funding for pregnancy resource centers, and AB 336 creating grants to support adoption. All four bills have already passed the Senate.

To build a culture that protects human life, there is still more that can be done, such as reducing birth costs, eliminating racial disparities in maternal and infant mortality, supporting birth mothers after adoption, removing sales tax on baby supplies and feminine hygiene products, and more. Nobody loses when we invest in women, children, and families.

We know that it is possible for both sides to come together to work to eliminate the barriers to welcoming children, instead of eliminating them.

Women deserve better than abortion. Children deserve better than abortion. Wisconsin deserves better than abortion.

We respectfully urge the committee to reject AB-975. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today.