



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

TO: Senator Chris Kapenga, Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Licensing, Regulatory Reform, State and Federal Affairs

FROM: David Earleywine, Associate Director

DATE: November 12, 2025

RE: Support for Senate Bill 406, Reporting of Sex and Fetal Anomaly Following Abortion

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC), the public policy voice of the Catholic bishops of Wisconsin, appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 406.

The bill requires that any facility which performs an induced abortion report to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services the sex of the child who was aborted and whether the child had any fetal anomalies, so that this information can be added to the state's birth defect registry. Current law already requires that the facility report certain demographic information, the probable gestational age of the child, any complications, and more.

It is essential that women, medical professionals, the public, and lawmakers have access to all the relevant information involving abortions taking place in Wisconsin, while simultaneously protecting the identity of the mother. As has been widely reported, children with certain congenital conditions are aborted at very high rates. This bill simply sheds light on what is taking place.

The abortion rights group, the Guttmacher Institute, agrees that induced abortion reporting requirements are essential:

The incidence of induced abortion is an important public health indicator. On its own, the understanding of abortion levels, rates and trends is key to documenting the success of efforts to help women avoid unintended pregnancy, the precursor to most abortions. As a component of other statistics, abortion incidence data are essential to calculating levels and rates of pregnancy overall, teen pregnancy and unintended pregnancy.

Data from ongoing abortion surveillance also inform public health in two other key areas. Data on basic demographic characteristics of abortion patients (e.g., age, race and ethnicity, and marital status) are needed to identify disparities in reproductive health outcomes and help tailor public health interventions to groups at particular risk of having an unintended pregnancy. Also,

surveillance of factors such as gestational age and abortion procedure used provides important insights into the safety of abortion and changes in clinical practice.¹

While we disagree with the Guttmacher Institute's support for abortion, we agree with their call for proper reporting. This bill offers valuable and commonsense information on abortion in our state, information which both sides of the abortion debate should welcome.

We therefore urge you to support Senate Bill 406.

¹ Joerg Dreweke, "Abortion Reporting: Promoting Public Health, Not Politics," Guttmacher Policy Review, Volume 18, Issue no. 2 (Spring 2015), <https://www.guttmacher.org/gpr/2015/06/abortion-reporting-promoting-public-health-not-politics>.