



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

TO: Members of Joint Committee on Finance
FROM: John Hiebscher, Executive Director
DATE: May 17, 2007
RE: Post Adoption Resource Centers

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference strongly supports increased funding for the state's six Post Adoption Resource Centers.

The Department of Health and Family Services currently contracts with regional agencies to provide post adoption services at six sites around the state. These Post Adoption Resource Centers receive \$70,000 annually and have not had a funding increase since 1999.

The Resource Centers help parents and families with some of the most challenging adoptions — those of children with special needs and/or with histories of abuse and neglect. Supporting such families is critical if Wisconsin wants to attract and retain families for some of our most vulnerable children.

When adoptions fail or do not occur at all, the financial and societal costs are great. Children in foster care experience more stress and disruption and require more extensive county support than adopted children.

For all these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to increase the funding to reflect inflationary costs.