



## WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

TO: Members of Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: John Huebscher, Executive Director

DATE: May 21, 2007

RE: Benefits for Women with At-Risk Pregnancies

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The Wisconsin Catholic Conference supports giving W-2 grants to poor childless women who are in the third trimester of a medically verified at-risk pregnancy.

The Legislative Fiscal Bureau (paper #889) estimates that there are approximately 97 women who could benefit from this change in the law in the next two years.

An impoverished pregnant woman has a far better chance of delivering a healthy child if she is well-nourished herself and not overcome by anxiety and desperation at her economic plight.

If the citizenry wants to reduce the incidence of abortions, it needs to extend a compassionate and helping hand to pregnant women in need. Respect for human life means not pitting the mother against her child, but helping her to welcome her new child with joy and anticipation.

In the interest of upholding the value of human life, we urge you to support this new benefit.

Thank you for your kind attention.