



## WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

January 15, 2009

Ms. Donna Katen-Bahensky  
President and CEO  
University of Wisconsin  
Hospitals and Clinics  
600 Highland Ave.  
Madison, WI 53792-8350  
Fax: (608) 263-9830

Jeffrey Grossman, M.D.  
President and CEO  
University of Wisconsin  
Medical Foundation  
600 Highland Ave.  
Madison, WI 53792-8310  
Fax: (608) 265-1642

James L. Woodward  
President and CEO  
Meriter Hospital  
202 S. Park Street  
Madison, WI 53715  
Fax: (608) 417-6357

Dear Ms. Katen-Bahensky, Dr. Grossman, and Mr. Woodward:

I am writing on behalf of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC), the public policy voice of Wisconsin's bishops, to express our strong opposition to the reported plan of the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics (UWHC), the UW Medical Foundation, and Meriter Hospital to open an abortion clinic at the Madison Surgery Center.

Institutions that are committed to healing and saving human lives do not advance that mission by performing induced abortions.

While the WCC can never support the expansion of abortion anywhere in Wisconsin, what is particularly distressing is that this proposed expansion involves the UWHC. The UWHC is unlike any other health care system in Wisconsin. Even if tax dollars are not involved, as the state's leading medical research and teaching institution, the UWHC is both a symbol and a reflection of who we are as a people.

Wisconsin has historically been a national leader in helping the vulnerable. Induced abortion, even if legal, denies help to the unborn child. That is not what the Wisconsin Idea is about. Rather than taking human lives, the tradition of our state and the mission of the UWHC are best served by exclusively healing and saving lives.

In Madison, organizations such as Catholic Charities, Pregnancy Helpline, Care Net, and Safe Place for Newborns exist to help women and their unborn children. We encourage all individuals and institutions committed to advancing the health and well being of women and children to collaborate with these and similar organizations. Working together, let us give every human being the opportunity to thrive.

We urge you to reject this plan and continue providing everyone in our community with excellent health care.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sella  
Associate Director