



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

TO: Members, Assembly Committee on Health

FROM: Barbara Sella, Associate Director for Respect Life and Social Concerns

DATE: October 7, 2021

RE: AB 594, Congenital Condition Educational Resources

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC), the public policy voice of the Catholic bishops of Wisconsin, urges you to support Assembly Bill 594, which requires that physicians who administer a prenatal or postnatal test for a congenital condition ensure that the parent or expectant parent of the child with a positive test result receives current and evidence-based educational resources on the congenital condition as made available on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) website.

We think physicians will want to share these resources with expectant parents, many of whom will be distressed when they receive an unwanted diagnosis. Parents deserve to know the full scope of their unborn children's condition and should be reassured that medical staff and the larger community are there to support them as they care for them or choose to find others to care for them.

We are especially pleased that the bill requires the DHS to list all the supports that exist for specific congenital conditions. Listing these will not just help parents but will also reveal any gaps in resources and supports – gaps that concerned citizens, as well as public and private entities, can work to fill.

AB 594 brings hope and sends the important message that Wisconsin values all human life, no matter what condition it is in.