



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

TO: Members, Senate Committee on Health

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

DATE: October 12, 2021

RE: SB 591, Abortion Pill Reversal and Reporting

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC), the public policy voice of the Catholic bishops of Wisconsin, urges you to support Senate Bill 591, which requires that a woman seeking an abortion via medication be informed that she may be able to continue her pregnancy if she seeks immediate medical assistance to counteract the effects of the first administration of the abortion drug.

The bill updates Wisconsin's informed consent laws in response to new abortion practices. In the case of a medication abortion, there is growing evidence that it may be possible for a woman to reverse the effect of the first drug, mifepristone, by getting an injection of progesterone. Critics of this procedure say that it has not been scientifically proven to work. While more study may be needed to improve outcomes and better understand long-term impacts, the fact is that there are children alive in the world today because their mothers utilized this treatment option.

SB 591 also requires that abortion providers report additional information to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). By understanding how and why women seek abortions, we can learn more about the emotional, economic, social, psychological, and physical challenges women, parents, families, and unborn children face. Armed with this data, we can better address the many needs of women and children, who sadly are still among the most vulnerable in the wealthiest nation on earth.

Some will object that asking women why they are choosing abortion is an unacceptable intrusion into their privacy. However, no one should dispute that a human life is being taken and that women deserve better than to have to endure aborting their unborn children. We must, as a civilized society, find ways to help both mother and child, so that each can thrive.

We urge you to pass SB 591.