



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WCC OPPOSES PLANNED PARENTHOOD PETITION TO FIND A RIGHT TO ABORTION IN WISCONSIN CONSTITUTION

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of Wisconsin's bishops, unequivocally opposes Planned Parenthood's petition to the Wisconsin Supreme Court to find a right to abortion in the Wisconsin Constitution, thereby enshrining into law state-sanctioned violence against the most innocent members of the human family.

On February 20, Sheboygan County District Attorney Joel Urmanski [petitioned](#) the Wisconsin Supreme Court to bypass the Court of Appeals and take up his appeal of Dane County Judge Diane Schlipper's December 5 [ruling](#) that Wis. Stat. §940.04, the state's abortion ban, does not apply to consensual abortions. Then on February 22, Planned Parenthood filed a [petition](#) to the Court claiming that §940.04 violates Article I, Section 1 of the Wisconsin Constitution.

Planned Parenthood's petition focuses on the right to liberty, both for women and for its abortion business. But the fundamental constitutional right is the right to life. Without life, there is no liberty. The Wisconsin Constitution and §940.04 protect the inherent right to life of both women and children, rather than pitting them against each other.

Wisconsin can do so much better by women and children than by enshrining the right to kill preborn children. Indeed, all women deserve access to resources and community support throughout pregnancy and in the years to come. All women deserve high-quality prenatal, delivery, and postpartum care, maternity leave, childcare, and other necessary supports for themselves and their families. For mothers who wish to find forever families for their children, Wisconsin can do more to facilitate adoptions.

The WCC is ready to work with all legislators on additional legislation to support both mother and child, including expanding postpartum care, eliminating racial disparities in maternal and infant mortality, removing sales tax on feminine hygiene products and baby supplies, increasing the tax exemption for dependents, funding pregnancy resource centers, adoption tax credits, affordable housing, and more.

The Catholic Church stands ready and willing to walk alongside women experiencing challenges during pregnancy and parenthood. The Church's initiative, [Walking with Moms in Need](#), seeks to ensure that no woman is alone when faced with such challenges. If you or someone you know is in need, please reach out to a local parish or Catholic Charities. Pregnancy resource centers are also an invaluable source of support and can be found throughout Wisconsin.

In 1848, Wisconsin ratified its Constitution, protecting the inherent right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. In 1849, Wisconsin banned abortion. In 1853, Wisconsin abolished the death penalty. In all three cases, our state was truly ahead of its time in recognizing the value of every human life and

opposing state-sanctioned violence. These laws are not archaic; they protect intrinsic human rights. It is not these laws, but rather Planned Parenthood's actions, that are a step backwards for human rights.

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