



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

July 29, 2024

STATEMENT OF THE WISCONSIN CATHOLIC BISHOPS IN SUPPORT OF ARCHBISHOP LISTECKI'S PETITION TO INTERVENE IN ABORTION CASE

We as bishops of Wisconsin wholeheartedly support Archbishop Jerome Listecky's [Petition to Intervene](#) at the Wisconsin Supreme Court to protect children from abortion. On July 2, the Wisconsin Supreme Court agreed to hear a case from Planned Parenthood that seeks to find a constitutional right to abortion within the Wisconsin Constitution, an outcome which threatens the lives of countless unborn children in our state. On July 16, the Archbishop of Milwaukee took action to defend these children, the most vulnerable persons at the heart of this case.

We affirm that the Archbishop has a religious obligation to care for the souls of every human life in his diocese, born and unborn. We affirm that we are under the same obligation in our respective dioceses. His and our First Amendment rights are at stake in this case as we seek to freely exercise our religion.

Furthermore, it is critical that the Archbishop's intervention be granted, so that someone is defending those who have no voice. In the present case, "the interests of the unborn are unrepresented and their constitutional rights are not being asserted." As the Archbishop notes, "it is unthinkable that a legal decision of such import could be made without the full participation by both sides (or all sides) to this dispute."

The Catholic Church always stands ready and willing to walk alongside women experiencing challenges during pregnancy and parenthood. The Church's newest initiative, Walking with Moms in Need, seeks to accompany any woman who is pregnant or parenting in difficult circumstances and to connect her with the resources she needs. If you or someone you know needs support, 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.

Wisconsin can do so much better by women and children than by enshrining a constitutional right to kill unborn children. Women and children deserve laws that will protect them both and we will continually seek to advance such legislation.

The Most Reverend Donald J. Hying
Bishop of Madison

The Most Reverend James P. Powers
Bishop of Superior

The Most Reverend Jeffrey R. Haines
Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee

The Most Reverend William P. Callahan
Bishop Emeritus of La Crosse

The Most Reverend David L. Ricken
Bishop of Green Bay

The Most Reverend Gerard W. Battersby
Bishop of La Crosse

The Most Reverend James T. Schuerman
Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee

The Most Reverend Richard J. Sklba
Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Milwaukee