

Legislative Updates

(as of Nov. 1)

COREEN MARKLEIN, LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

December, 2017

Choose Life Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Family Council and Pro-Life Wisconsin have recently announced the availability of the Choose Life Wisconsin license plates. These plates are now available in 30 states. The plates indicate Choose Life as well as a baby's foot print.

The initial fee to purchase the plate will be the regular registration fee, plus a \$15 issuance fee, and \$25 tax-deductible donation that the state will send to Choose Life Wisconsin, Inc. After the first year, the cost is the regular registration fee and the \$25 tax-deductible donation (unless the applicant wants a personalized plate, which is an additional \$15). Choose Life Wisconsin will then distribute the funds to Wisconsin's Pregnancy Resource Centers. In order for the plate to remain an option for Wisconsin, at least 500 plates need to be in circulation at any one time. The next time your license plates are up for renewal, consider obtaining a Pro-Life plate.

Pending Pro-Life Legislation

Testimony in Support of SB 154 — Abortion Prohibitions for UW Employees (Oct. 17, 2017). The Wisconsin Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of Wisconsin's bishops, strongly supports Senate Bill 154. This bill would prohibit the University of Wisconsin (UW) System or the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority from allowing their employees to perform or assist in the performance of an abortion outside of a hospital setting. In short, the bill would put an end to Wisconsin taxpayer support for elective abortions. By paying employees to work at Planned Parenthood, the UW is, in essence, jointly operating an abortion facility, which violates both the letter and the spirit of Wisconsin Statutes s. 20.927. Overall, the bill indicates that public authorities should not be facilitating the unjust taking of human life. Watch for more details in the news.

Immigrants and Refugees

Address root causes of migration, establish easier avenues for legal immigration, legalize existing unauthorized immigrants, follow humane enforcement policies and protect human and legal rights of all migrants.

State

Oppose Assembly Bill 127 that would unnecessarily limit ability of local governments to discern how to engage immigrants.

Federal

Support Bridge Act: Bar Removal of Individuals Who Dream and Grow Our Economy (S. 128/H.R. 496) to help hundreds of thousands of young immigrants. Act would provide temporary relief from deportation and employment authorization to individuals who are eligible for the Department of Homeland Security's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Passage of the Dream Act: Development, Relief and Education of Alien Minors Act. Help individuals who meet qualifications to enlist in the Military or higher education to have a path to citizenship.

Protecting Life from the Womb to the Tomb (natural death)

Fetal Remains Respect Act (LRB-1754). Prohibits any person from knowingly acquiring, providing, receiving, or using fetal body parts obtained from induced abortions.

Unborn Child Disposition and Anatomical Gift Act (LRB-1755). Facility where an unborn child has died due to stillbirth or miscarriage must inform mother that mother may request child's remains for final disposition or to make anatomical gift for research, experimentation, study, or transplantation.

Increase funds for treatment services to sex-trafficked children

Right to Die with Dignity (Wisconsin Assembly Bill 216): Bill which would permit certain individuals to make requests for medication for purpose of ending their lives.

References

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
USCCB: <http://www.usccb.org/> Issues & Actions

Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC) is the public policy voice of Wisconsin's Bishops and a source of information on Catholic Social Teaching. The website (<http://www.wisconsincatholic.org>) provides a monthly "at a glance" Legislative Updates. You can also subscribe to its email updates.

Catholics at the Capitol, sponsored by the WCC, is convened in spring of each new legislative session (odd numbered years) and features workshops and networking to bring a united Catholic voice to the Capitol.

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