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Testimony in Support of Assembly Bill 217
Assembly Committee on Health
Julaine K. Appling, WFA President
May 29, 2013

Thank you, Chairman Severson and committee members, for the opportunity to testify today in support of Assembly Bill 217. I am Julaine Appling, president of Wisconsin Family Action, an organization dedicated to strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and liberty in The Badger State.

I had to remind myself as I prepared this brief testimony and as I deliver it that this is America; that we are not a developing country. That we don't kill our babies based on their sex—or at least historically we haven't. Apparently, that is no longer a given.

Some today will point out that other countries have put in place anti-sex-selection protections, while America has not. I contend that for the most part people really didn't think we needed them. After all, this is America. Apparently and tragically, being America doesn't make much difference anymore. We do need them.

Some allege a bill such as AB 217 is a solution looking for a problem. That the statistics don't support such a bill. After all, isn't sex-selection abortion primarily a problem with certain immigrant groups? The truth is that while we argue over the statistics, we run a real risk of more baby girls being marked for abortion just because they are girls. It's not a risk I'm willing to take and you as lawmakers should not either.

And what difference does it make as to the ethnicity or nationality of the woman having a sex-selected abortion? The answer to that is it should make no difference whatsoever. All women and their baby girls matter. These women are seeking an abortion just as non-immigrant women would and they must all abide by the law. In this case, the law needs to prevent their choosing to kill their baby simply because she is female.

We all know this is the real war on women. This is the horrific result of "abortion on demand" that Planned Parenthood and others have sought for years. Abortion on demand apparently really does come with no restraint. The slippery slope that we are frequently mocked for mentioning has once again proven to be deadly real and once again has taken us farther than we ever dreamed it would or could.

Since Congress cannot see its way clear to enact a ban on sex-selection abortion,¹ it is imperative that the states take this unbelievable matter in hand. Our thanks to Rep. Kestell and Sen. Leibham for doing just that for Wisconsin. Whether this bill is reactive in that it would stop through criminalizing such abortions taking place in our state right now or whether it is strictly proactively preemptive, it is right that we pass it. This war on our very youngest and most vulnerable women must stop. You are in a position to do just that, and we urge you to pass this bill out of committee quickly and get it to the full Assembly for a vote.

Thank you for your time and attention.

¹ U.S. House of Representatives fails to pass Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act of 2012, 5/31/2012. <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d112:h.r.03541>: (accessed 5/29/13)