



PO Box 1327 • Madison WI 53701-1327  
608-268-5074 (Madison) • 866-849-2536 (toll-free) • 608-256-3370 (fax)  
Email: [info@wifamilyaction.org](mailto:info@wifamilyaction.org)  
Web site: [www.wifamilyaction.org](http://www.wifamilyaction.org)  
Blog: <http://blog.wifamilyaction.com>

---

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 206**  
**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**Julaine K. Appling, WFA President**  
**June 5, 2013**

Thank you, Chairman Vukmir and committee members, for the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 206. 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.

Senator Lazich and Representative Strachota have drafted this bill, Sonya's Law, carefully and prudently; and we are grateful for their leadership on this proposal. The bill's intent is clear: to ensure mothers in Wisconsin have the opportunity to see a picture of their baby prior to making one of the most crucial decisions of their lives and their babies' lives.

Who has not heard stories of women who have seen ultrasound images of their baby or heard that newborn's heartbeat and suddenly realized this was not, as they had been cruelly and self-servingly told, "the product of conception" or "fetal tissue"?" This was clearly a baby. All pregnant women deserve the opportunity to see and hear the truth.

I find it interesting that the question our organization frequently gets on this bill is whether or not the procedure will add to the cost of the abortion. What we know is that many abortionists already do ultrasounds prior to the actual life-taking procedure in order to determine how far along the woman is in her pregnancy. The difference is that under Wisconsin's current law, the abortion provider is not required to even offer to let the woman see the image. This situation notwithstanding, this means that the cost of the ultrasound is typically already included in the pricing. Additionally, the authors have taken great care to ensure the woman is provided a list of places where she can get the required ultrasound for free, if the abortion facility does not provide it.

Importantly, the bill makes it very clear that the type of transducer used for the required ultrasound is up to the woman after she is given explanatory information about the various options.

Another key provision in SB 206 requires a person doing abortions to have admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of the abortion facility. This, again, is prudent and primarily helps to ensure the safety of the woman. Given the nature of this procedure and potential complications that could require rapid treatment, it is right that the abortion provider be able to admit and treat a woman at a nearby hospital.

Women contemplating an abortion—and the babies they are carrying—deserve the opportunity to "see" their unborn baby through ultrasound technology. This bill responsibly provides that opportunity.

Wisconsin Family Action wholeheartedly and enthusiastically supports this bill, and we urge you to do the same. Thank you for your time and attention today.