



WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

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Wisconsin Family Action Applauds State Assembly for Passing Bill To Defund Planned Parenthood

Madison, WI – “This is a bill whose time has come. We thank and congratulate the Assembly Representatives who voted yesterday afternoon in favor of a bill that corrects a longstanding wrong in this state,” said Wisconsin Family Action president Julaine Appling.

After a rather lengthy and crisp debate, especially from those who oppose the measure, the Wisconsin Assembly voted along party lines to pass Assembly Bill 310, a bill that requires that the State Department of Health Services apply for federal Title X funds that for the last 35 years have gone exclusively and directly to Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin. Title X funds are stipulated for family-planning services and related preventive health services for low-income individuals.

Under the bill, the Department is to distribute the funds to public entities, including state, county and local health departments and clinics and Wisconsin’s Well Woman Program. Any remaining funds may then go to private hospitals or federally qualified health clinics that provide comprehensive primary and preventive care.

In addition, the bill prohibits the Department from giving the funds to entities that themselves provide or have affiliates that provide abortion services.

Appling commented, “Wisconsin Family Action has, along with other pro-life groups, worked hard on this bill. In addition to redirecting money away from Wisconsin’s largest abortion provider, which in itself is enough for us to support the measure, the bill also allows taxpayers to have more say in how their money is used. For too long Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin has had a stranglehold on these federal taxpayer monies.”

Yesterday’s floor debate included numerous statements against the bill’s author, Rep. André Jacques (R-De Pere), and against groups that have supported this bill.

According to Appling, “While the session was underway yesterday, our organization, along with our sister organization Wisconsin Family Council, was preparing to host an Awards Gala. We were honoring Rep. Jacques with our William Wilberforce Freedom Award. Rep. Jacques is more than qualified to receive the award because his pro-life work is very much about respecting the freedom of all humans to live and to thrive. In this instance, he was also respecting the freedom of Wisconsin taxpayers to have more input into what happens with their hard-earned tax dollars.”

The bill now heads to the Senate. Earlier this week, the Senate Health Committee held a hearing on the Senate version of the bill.

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Wisconsin Family Action is a statewide, not-for-profit organization actively strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and liberty in Wisconsin.