



WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

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**TESTIMONY ON ASSEMBLY BILL 181
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019
JULIAINE K. APPLING, PRESIDENT**

Thank you, Chairman Sanfelippo and committee members, for holding this hearing on Assembly Bill 181. Wisconsin Family Action supports this bill with some reservations. I regret that I am unable to attend the hearing due to a previously scheduled business trip and appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony digitally.

Wisconsin Family Action has a long and solid history of supporting efforts to stop public funding of abortion providers, and we are grateful for Representative Brandtjen's and Senator Jacque's working to continue that effort with Assembly Bill 181.

Assembly Bill 181's highly laudable intent is to ultimately prevent Medicaid funding for abortion in Wisconsin. However, we do have a couple of concerns. First, we would prefer that hospitals that perform abortions be included in the decertification requirement. Second, we also are concerned that the bill is not broad enough to prevent newly organized abortion-providing entities from receiving Medicaid funding. The bill stipulates two conditions that must be met for decertification: 1) the entity provides abortion services or is an affiliate of a person that provides abortion services *and* 2) that the entity is a nonprofit private entity that has received at any time or has applied for a grant or contract for a family planning project under federal law. It is this second part that creates our concern. Its emphasis on an entity's past actions regarding funding seems to create an opening for newly organized entities that perform abortions to receive Medicaid funding.

In spite of these concerns, we believe Assembly Bill 181 is a proposal deserving of our support as an organization that firmly believes no public monies should support the atrocity of abortion.