



**WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION**  
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

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**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 187**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, TECHNOLOGY & CONSUMER PROTECTION  
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019**

**JULAIN K. APPLING, PRESIDENT**

Thank you, Chairman Stroebel and committee members, for holding this hearing on Senate Bill 187. Wisconsin Family Action supports this bill with a significant caveat. 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 Senator Stroebel's working to continue that effort with Senate Bill 187.

As a matter of long-standing principle, we have always preferred that bills dealing with abortion not include exceptions and have encouraged authors to draft bills accordingly. However, upon occasion we have ended up supporting a bill with exceptions, while making it clear that we object to the exceptions. Such is the case with this bill.

Senate Bill 187's highly laudable intent is to ultimately prevent Medicaid funding from going to entities that provide abortions or that are an affiliate of an entity that provides abortion. Unfortunately, the bill provides a significant carve-out for hospitals that perform abortions in certain situations: the termination is directly and medically necessary to save the life of the woman; the pregnancy is the result of sexual assault or incest, which has been reported to law enforcement; or the termination is, due to a medical condition existing prior to the abortion, directly and medically necessary to prevent grave, long-lasting physical health damage to the woman.

While we realize hospitals pose some unusual challenges, we believe this bill could and should be amended to include hospitals in its decertifying requirement. While we support the bill in general concept, we cannot give a wholesale endorsement of the bill with this express exemption for hospitals. Should the authors agree to such an amendment to this bill, we would be more than happy to give full and unequivocal support.