



WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 261
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2021
JULIAINE K. APPLING, PRESIDENT

Thank you, Chairman Jacque and committee members, for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 261. Wisconsin Family Action supports this bill.

Wisconsin Family Action wholeheartedly supports the positions and points made by other pro-life leaders on this bill.

Senate Bill 261 requires that additional important information be gathered and reported when an induced abortion is performed, including the sex of the unborn child, whether the unborn child had a fetal anomaly or birth defect and if so the nature of that fetal anomaly or birth defect, and the identification of the facility in which the abortion was performed. The bill further requires that the Department of Health Services must incorporate the reported information regarding an aborted child's fetal anomaly in the current birth defect registry. In addition, a hospital, clinic, or any other facility that performs an induced abortion must report summaries of the required information.

It is reasonable to ask why this additional reporting should be required. Simply put, it provides important information on an elective procedure that has as its sole goal the death of a human life. The magnitude of the procedure demands that we track and report information about the human life that is lost and where that happened. For instance, we have attempted a couple of times in our state to pass a law that bans sex-selective abortions. Part of the reason that the bill hasn't become law is that we do not have accurate statistics on the sex of aborted babies. We don't have that because that information is not required to be reported. To be fair, we shouldn't have to have that information in order to be proactive on this issue.

Determining whether a fetal anomaly was present in an unborn child and reporting such information gives us a more accurate picture of the prevalence of birth defects in our state and could help with research on such anomaly.

On the matter of reporting the identity of the facility where an induced abortion is performed, it only makes sense that we know where an induced abortion is taking place. According to the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute, many states require that the facility be identified as well as the healthcare provider. Senate Bill 261 does not require the identity of the healthcare provider but requiring that the facility be identified and reported is not out of the norm.

The proposed amendment includes a number of additional reporting requirements, many of which a number of other states require to be reported. Some will argue that this bill goes too far, that we don't require these types of information to be gathered for other medical procedures. However, abortion is not like other medical procedures that are designed, at a minimum, to try to save a life. Abortion's sole purpose is to take a life.

Thank you for your attention and thoughtful consideration of our position on this proposal. Wisconsin Family Action urges you to support this bill and recommend it for passage by the full Senate.