



WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

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**TESTIMONY ON ASSEMBLY BILL 528
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021
JULAIN K. APPLING, PRESIDENT**

Thank you, Chairman Sanfelippo and committee members, for holding this hearing on Assembly Bill 528. Wisconsin Family Action supports this bill with one reservation.

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 528. Like Assembly Bill 493, Assembly Bill 528 has a highly laudable intent: to ultimately prevent Medicaid/Medical Assistance funding for abortion in Wisconsin. Abortion is not health care. Health care does not intentionally take the life of a human being. Abortion is a procedure a woman chooses for a variety of reasons. Taxpayer money, regardless of the form in which it flows through the pipeline, should never be used to pay for this choice that ends in the death of a person.

However, we do believe AB 528 could be improved by including hospitals in the certifying and decertifying requirement. This bill differs from AB 493 in a significant way when it comes to this issue. AB 493 explicitly exempts hospitals and explicitly cites exceptions (*i.e.*, rape, incest, life of the mother, etc.) within that exemption. In this bill, that explicit exemption is appropriately absent. There's simply no mention of hospitals at all. We believe it would be best to explicitly include hospitals in the decertification requirement. Hospitals that perform abortions should not receive taxpayer funding—not even in the situations enumerated. We would certainly support an amendment that addresses this. In spite of this concern, Assembly Bill 528 is a proposal deserving of our support as an organization—an organization that firmly believes no public monies should support the atrocity of abortion.

Thank you for your thoughtful and careful attention to our position on this bill.