



WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION
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**TESTIMONY ON ASSEMBLY BILL 593
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 593. Wisconsin Family Council supports this bill. I would like to thank the authors of this bill for introducing this important legislation. We applaud this effort to better serve Wisconsin's children, mothers, and families. Assembly Bill 593 requires providing information that will allow for mothers to take potentially life-saving action for her child after having taken the first of a two-dose abortion inducing drug, as well as requiring the reporting of certain important demographic data related to abortions.

Abortifacient drugs are often pushed as an alternative to surgical abortion. The most common combination is a two-pill process where mifepristone is given as a first dose in order to block the necessary hormone, progesterone, from reaching the baby. This pill is commonly known as RU-486. When progesterone is administered by a medical professional after the first pill but before the second, it can counteract the mifepristone present in the womb and save the baby's life.

Studies suggest that this process is as high as 68% effective in reversing the abortion. It's important to note that neither mifepristone nor progesterone have been linked to birth defects or abnormalities. Studies have shown that children born after this reversal process have an equal or lesser birth defect rate compared to other pregnancies. Children born after a reversed abortion have every chance at living a successful and fulfilling life. If roughly 48 hours after taking the first pill, the mother decides to go through with the abortion, she will take a second round of medication containing misoprostol. This second pill causes contractions and completes the abortion.

We know that, after the first pill, many women change their mind about the abortion, and if equipped with the right resources may be able to save their baby. This bill ensures that mothers in crisis will at least know about this opportunity. It is only right that women receive this information and learn of the options available to them. AB 593 creates no costly mandates, and it does not limit access to abortions. This bill is about providing information. If AB 593 were to become law, mothers will be better informed of their options both verbally and in writing; and many of those mothers will choose life for their child.

One issue we have with the bill is that it permits the 24-hour waiting period to be exempted if the pregnancy has resulted from sexual assault or incest. According to the bill, the information must be provided to the woman, but she does not have to wait 24 hours before having the abortion. Regardless of the situation that resulted in pregnancy, as horrific as assault and incest are, that does not diminish the value of the human life that has been conceived. We would encourage an amendment to eliminate this provision so as to give the woman time to consider whether she wants to continue with the second step of the chemical abortion or take the "reversal" pill.

Another aspect of this bill that we support is the more rigorous reporting requirements around why babies are aborted in our state. This additional reporting does not raise privacy concerns. Anonymity is specifically provided for mothers who undergo an abortion as well as those who performed the abortion, as no identifying information can be reported. We appreciate that this bill does include a provision requiring the reporting of which facilities are performing abortions. Providing anonymity for the woman and for the provider is one thing; doing so for the facility is another matter. That, along with the other demographic information specified in the bill will help us better understand why mothers in Wisconsin choose abortion and how we can better serve them and their children, as well as determining how abortions are being paid for.

Thank you for your thoughtful and careful attention to our position on this bill. Once again, Wisconsin Family Action supports this legislation, and we urge you to vote in favor of AB 593.