



WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

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TESTIMONY ON ASSEMBLY BILL 595
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 595. Wisconsin Family Action supports this bill with one reservation.

Assembly Bill 595 bans discrimination against specified ones of Wisconsin's most vulnerable citizens—her unborn children. That said, we would contend that every abortion is discriminating against unborn babies. Regardless of the reason for an abortion, the stark reality remains: a child's life has been intentionally taken. The characteristics of that child, such as sex, race, color, ancestry, national origin, or congenital disability are really not material when it comes to this life-taking procedure. The result is always the same: another life snuffed out.

So, in one sense we are tempted to take a neutral stand on this bill, but in another sense, we have always supported incremental proposals that will actually save unborn babies from abortion. We believe this bill does that with its prohibition on abortions for reasons of the race, color, national origin, ancestry, or sex of the baby or because the baby has been diagnosed with a congenital disease, defect, or disorder.

In part because we have not required enough information from abortion providers, we are not able to know for certain how many unborn babies are aborted in our state each year for one of these enumerated characteristics. Hopefully, we will soon see a time when more specific data are required from abortionists and abortion facilities. Nevertheless, we know that at least the potential is there for a woman deciding on an abortion solely for one of these reasons. We do know that a significant number of babies *in utero* who have been diagnosed with Down Syndrome are aborted. Statistics range widely on this—from 67% to 90%—and, again, lack of reported data hampers specificity here, but we know enough to know these children are being aborted at disproportionately high rates.

And that brings us to our reservation, and the reason we can not unequivocally support AB 595. The bill explicitly exempts a child who has been diagnosed with, in the words of the bill, “a life-limiting fetal anomaly, which is a profound and irremediable congenital or chromosomal anomaly that is incompatible with sustaining life after birth and does not include any condition that can be treated.” That is an exception we cannot accept.

We know personally at least two couples who were told their unborn child had a “life-limiting fetal anomaly,” and doctors recommended abortion. Both couples refused. And today, one of those children is about 10 years old and the other 7. Do they have disabilities, and are they profound? Undoubtedly, but both of these precious children have exceeded every expectation any doctor had for their future and/or their abilities. Why make an exception for these children? They are no less valuable than those that have the other enumerated characteristics in this bill. Let the child be born. He or she may succumb to the anomaly, but then again, maybe not. God may have a completely different plan for these precious children. That plan should not be cut short by abortion. We urge the authors to amend the bill to remove this exemption. Should that happen, we will give 100% support to the proposed legislation.

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