

Senate Bill 399... relating to: a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth.

BILL SPONSORS

Introduced by Senators **Roessler, Darling, Cowles, Lazich, Schultz and Stepp**.
Cosponsored by Representatives Honadel, LeMahieu, Montgomery, Nischke, Huebsch, Gielow, Gronemus, Albers, Suder, Gundrum, Jensen, Gottlieb, Vukmir, Krawczyk, Musser, Owens, Rhoades, Hines, Kreibich, Jeskewitz, Sinicki, Ziegelbauer, Stone, Nass, McCormick, Gunderson, Ward and Weber.

BILL HISTORY

Senate Bill 399 was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care on January 16, 2004. A public hearing was held on February 12, 2004. Executive session was held on February 17, 2004.

The Committee recommended passage on a vote of 8-1 (Chvala).

LRB ANALYSIS

Current Law:

Under current law, if a pregnancy results in a live birth, a certificate of birth is prepared and filed with the state registrar. A person with a direct and tangible interest in a particular birth certificate may obtain a certified copy of the birth certificate by submitting a written request to the state registrar and paying the applicable fee.

If, instead of a live birth, a pregnancy results in a miscarriage, a fetal death report is prepared and submitted to the state registrar, but only if the delivery occurs 20 weeks or more after the mother's last normal menstrual period or if the stillbirth weighs 350 grams or more. The state registrar may record information on a fetal death report for use in medical research and may use the information to compile statistics. After the information from a fetal death report is recorded, however, the report is destroyed.

Proposed Changes:

~~This bill creates a new, optional certificate called a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth. Under the bill, if a birth results in a stillbirth for which a fetal death report is required, the person who is responsible for preparing and filing the fetal death report must inform the parent or parents of the option to have a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth prepared and of how to obtain a certified copy of the certificate. If the parent or parents wish to have a certificate prepared, the person responsible for preparing and filing the fetal death report must, within five days after the delivery of the stillbirth, prepare a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth and file it with the state registrar. Only a parent of the stillbirth may obtain a certified copy of the certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth by requesting a copy from the state registrar in writing and paying a fee of \$10.~~

Although the notice requirements under the bill apply to stillbirths occurring on or after August 1, 2004, the bill also sets out a special procedure by which a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth may be prepared for stillbirths occurring before that date or if the parent or parents of a stillbirth occurring on or after that date do not request a certificate at the time of delivery but later decide that they would like to have one prepared. Under the special procedure, the state registrar must prepare and file a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth if a parent of a stillbirth for which a certificate was not prepared requests the preparation in writing and presents satisfactory evidence of the facts of the stillbirth.

Major Impact:

	<p>SB 399 creates a new, optional certificate called a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth.</p>
FISCAL EFFECT	<p>The Department of Health and Family Services: Increase existing revenues. Not possible to absorb increased costs in the agency's budget.</p> <p>The Department will have to design an application form for parents to use to request the certificate. The total one time cost of these changes to information systems and form design is estimated at \$45,400.</p> <p>The Department will also have to train hospitals and the public to provide the necessary information for the certificates to be issued, at a one time cost of \$15,000. Total one time cost of \$60,400.</p> <p>The total cost of issuing certificates of stillbirth is estimated at \$5,900 annually.</p> <p>If 120 certificates were to be sold at \$10 each, as provided in this bill, there would be \$1,200 in revenue for this program. This would result in an estimated shortfall for this provision of \$59,200 in the first year of the program and an estimated annual shortfall of \$4,700.</p>
SUPPORT	<p>The following people appeared in favor of this bill: (1) Ronald Stephan, Self, St. Francis; (2) Jennifer Petro, Self, Rhinelander; (3) Representative Mark Honadel; (4) Cherie Klopp, National Stillbirth Society, Eagle River; and (5) Senator Carol Roessler.</p> <p>The following people registered in favor of this bill: (1) Philip Retro, Self, Rhinelander; (2) Senator Rob Cowles, 2nd Senate District; (3) Kathy Markeland, Wisconsin Catholic Conference; (4) Reverend Sue Moline Larson, Lutheran Office for Public Policy in WI; (5) Kathryn Kuhn, Medical College of Wisconsin; (6) Senator Alberta Darling, 8th Senate District; (7) Michael Brown, Self, Sheboygan; (8) Laura Engel, Self, Sheboygan; (9) Ingrid Schlueter, Sunshine Adoption, Inc, Wauwatosa; (10) Karen Bass, Self, Evansville; (11) Michelle Zettle-Bruegger, Livingston; and (12) Matt Sande, Pro Life WI, Cambridge.</p>
OPPOSITION	<p>The following person appeared in opposition to this bill: (1) Peggy Peterson, Department of Health and Family Services.</p> <p>No one registered in opposition to this bill.</p>
CONTACT	Jennifer Halbur, Senator Carol Roessler, 266-5300
DATE	February 27, 2004

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Reader, Chris
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2004 4:17 PM
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: stillbirth legislation

Hey Jennifer, I haven't seen you since the couple weeks this summer in Cowles office.

I have a bill that I'm looking for a senate lead on for a companion- I have everything on it set to go, and the Speaker is going to fasttrack it in the Assembly to make sure it goes through. Similiar bills have passed in a dozen other states almost always with unanimous votes.

Here's the bill, my cosponsor letter I have set to go, and our press release I'm ready to go with, as soon as we find a Senate lead.



03-364111.pdf



Heavenly angels

introduced.doc...



LRB 3641

sponsorship memo.i

If you could let me know as soon as possible if Senator Roessler is interested, I'd appreciate it. Any questions, just give me a call at 6-0610.

Thanks!

Chris

Chris Reader

*Office of Representative Mark Honadel
Wisconsin State Assembly, 21st. District
Room 6 North, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708
(888) 534-0021 toll free
(608) 266-0610*



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 7th, 2004

For further information, contact:
Rep. Mark Honadel
(608) 266-0610
Sen. _____
(608) 266-xxxx

Heavenly Angels Bill Introduced in Legislature

Legislation will help parents of stillborn children find closure

Madison—Representative Mark Honadel (South Milwaukee) and Senator _____ (some city) today announced their intentions to introduce companion bills in both the Assembly and the Senate to create a 'Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth.' This certificate will be offered to the hundreds of parents in Wisconsin each year that endure the tragedy of a miscarriage and a stillbirth.

They are introducing this bill with one important goal- to help parents of stillborn children find closure at the loss of their child.

"Since 1980, there have been on average 444 stillborn children in Wisconsin every year. That's a rate of 6.2% of all pregnancies in the state ending by a miscarriage and stillbirth," said Honadel. "This creates a certificate for these grieving parents that looks similar to a birth certificate and recognizes that they did indeed have a child."

Currently in Wisconsin, if a pregnancy ends in miscarriage after 20 weeks gestation or if the fetus weighs 350 grams, a fetal death report is filed with the state registrar. The state uses this information for use in medical research and compiling statistics, but the report is then destroyed. The parents can receive a copy of the report, however it is not a report that many parents would want to frame or put on display in memory of their child. The certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth created by this legislation will be one that parents can frame and have as a keepsake of their child.

Senate Lead Quote "As a mother...?"

The Bill has been dubbed the 'Heavenly Angels' bill after an organization started in southeast Wisconsin by Rebecca Lomis-Stephan, the mother who contacted Rep. Honadel asking him to

look into the issue. On July 4th, 2003, Rebecca gave birth to twin girls, Olivia & Abrianna. The girls were born still, 4 days after they had passed.

Since 2001, there has been a national movement to pass similar legislation in other states. The first state to do so was Arizona in 2001, and at least a dozen other states have since created similar certificates for grieving parents. A dozen others are working on similar legislation now. This is a non-partisan issue, often passing in other states with unanimous votes.

Parents will be required to pay a \$10 fee to receive the certificate. This is the same fee that parents currently pay to receive a certificate of birth, and should offset any costs this creates for the state.

“After carrying a baby, often to term, enduring the pains of delivery, and then being struck by the sudden information that their child was born still- that is a lot for parents of these children to go through,” added Honadel. “It takes a physical, mental, and emotional toll on those parents. I hope this certificate can help heal the pain and help those families find closure.”

Honadel and _____ are currently gathering cosponsors for the bill. Next week they will officially introduce the legislation in both the Assembly and the Senate.

###

DATE: January 7th, 2004
TO: Members of the Legislature
FROM: Representative Honadel & Senator _____
RE: Co-sponsorship request of LRB 3641
Creating a "Certificate of Birth resulting in Stillbirth" for parents of stillborn children

Deadline is Wednesday, January 14th, 2004 at 5pm.

Dear Colleagues,

This is a very simple bill that has the potential to bring relief and comfort to hundreds of families each year. Every year in Wisconsin hundreds of expecting parents have a miscarriage and deliver a stillborn child, including the parents from southeast Wisconsin who asked me to look into this issue, who this past summer gave birth to twin stillborn girls. Since 1980, there have been on average 444 stillbirths a year in Wisconsin. That's a rate of 6.2% of all pregnancies ending in miscarriage and stillbirth.

In Wisconsin there is no record of the birth for the parents to receive, even though the mother carried the baby, often to term, and went through the pains of delivery. After a stillbirth, a fetal death report is filed for statistical purposes, but no certificate of birth is offered to the grieving parents (parents can receive a copy of the fetal death report, but that is not a very warm document, and parents would not want to frame it or put it on display in remembrance of their child.) We currently provide Certificates of Live Birth; this bill creates a Certificate of Stillbirth for the parents to receive if they desire. The certificate of Stillbirth will look similar to a current birth certificate, and the process and fees for parents to receive the certificate will be the same as a birth certificate.

Since 2001, there has been a national movement to pass similar legislation in other states. The first to do so was Arizona in 2001, and currently a dozen other states have passed similar legislation, and about a dozen others are working on similar legislation now. This is a non-partisan issue; other states have usually passed their bills with unanimous votes.

The bottom line is that the certificate created by this bill will bring comfort and closure to the hundreds of parents each year in Wisconsin who endure a miscarriage.

Thank you for your consideration. I ask you to please join as a cosponsor on this bill. To be added as a cosponsor, please email Chris Reader in my office or call him at 6-0610. You will be added to both the Assembly and Senate companion bills unless you indicate otherwise.

Sincerely,

Mark Honadel

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, if a pregnancy results in a live birth, a certificate of birth is prepared and filed with the state registrar. A person with a direct and tangible interest in a particular birth certificate may obtain a certified copy of the birth certificate by submitting a written request to the state registrar and paying the applicable fee.

If, instead of a live birth, a pregnancy results in a miscarriage, a fetal death report is prepared and submitted to the state registrar, but only if the delivery occurs 20 weeks or more after the mother's last normal menstrual period or if the stillbirth weighs 350 grams or more. The state registrar may record information on a fetal death report for use in medical research and may use the information to compile statistics. After the information from a fetal death report is recorded, however, the report is destroyed.

~~This bill creates a new, optional certificate called a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth.~~ Under the bill, if a birth results in a stillbirth for which a fetal death report is required, the person who is responsible for preparing and filing the fetal death report must inform the parent or parents of the option to have a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth prepared and of how to obtain a certified copy of the certificate. If the parent or parents wish to have a certificate prepared, the person responsible for preparing and filing the fetal death report must, within five days after the delivery of the stillbirth, prepare a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth and file it with the state registrar. Only a parent of the stillbirth may obtain a certified copy of the certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth by requesting a copy from the state registrar in writing and paying a fee of \$10.

Although the notice requirements under the bill apply to stillbirths occurring on or after August 1, 2004, the bill also sets out a special procedure by which a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth may be prepared for stillbirths occurring before that date or if the parent or parents of a stillbirth occurring on or after that date do not request a certificate at the time of delivery but later decide that they would like to have one prepared. Under the special procedure, the state registrar must prepare and file a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth if a parent of a stillbirth for which a certificate was not prepared requests the preparation in writing and presents satisfactory evidence of the facts of the stillbirth.

For further information see the **state** fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 9th, 2004

For further information, contact:
Rep. Mark Honadel
(414) 764-9921 or (608) 266-0610
Sen. Carol Roessler
(608) 266-5300

Heavenly Angels Bill Introduced in Legislature

Legislation will help parents of stillborn children find closure

Madison—Representative Mark Honadel (South Milwaukee) and Senator Carol Roessler (Oshkosh) today announced their intentions to introduce companion bills in both the Assembly and the Senate to create a 'Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth.' This certificate will be offered to the hundreds of parents in Wisconsin each year that endure the tragedy of a miscarriage and a stillbirth.

They are introducing this bill with one important goal- to help parents of stillborn children find closure at the loss of their child.

"Since 1980, there have been on average 444 stillborn children in Wisconsin every year. That's a rate of 6.2% of all pregnancies in the state ending by a miscarriage and stillbirth," said Honadel. "This creates a certificate for these grieving parents that looks similar to a birth certificate and recognizes that they did indeed have a child."

Currently in Wisconsin, if a pregnancy ends in miscarriage after 20 weeks gestation or if the fetus weighs 350 grams, a fetal death report is filed with the state registrar. The state uses this information for use in medical research and compiling statistics, but the report is then destroyed. The parents can receive a copy of the report, however it is not a report that many parents would want to frame or put on display in memory of their child. The certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth created by this legislation will be one that parents can frame and have as a keepsake of their child.

"While I have not had this experience personally, I know the pain, heartache and emotion involved," said Roessler. "I have a close family member that suffered through the tragedy of a still birth and it is a heartbreaking experience to have to go through."

The Bill has been dubbed the 'Heavenly Angels' bill after an organization started in southeast Wisconsin by Rebecca Lomis-Stephan, the mother who contacted Rep. Honadel asking him to look into the issue. On July 4th, 2003 Rebecca gave birth to twin girls, Olivia & Abrianna. The girls were born still, 4 days after they had passed.

Since 2001, there has been a national movement to pass similar legislation in other states. The first state to do so was Arizona in 2001, and at least a dozen other states have since created similar certificates for grieving parents. A dozen others are working on similar legislation now. This is a non-partisan issue, often passing in other states with unanimous votes.

Parents will be required to pay a \$10 fee to receive the certificate. This is the same fee that parents currently pay to receive a certificate of birth, and should offset any costs this creates for the state.

"After carrying a baby, often to term, enduring the pains of delivery, and then being struck by the sudden information that their child was born still- that is a lot for parents of these children to go through," added Honadel. "It takes a physical, mental and emotional toll on those parents. I hope this certificate can help heal the pain and help those families find closure."

Honadel and Roessler are currently gathering cosponsors for the bill. Next week they will officially introduce the legislation in both the Assembly and the Senate.

###

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Honadel, Mark
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2004 8:58 AM
To: *Legislative Assembly Republicans; *Legislative Assembly Democrats; *Legislative Senate Republicans; *Legislative Senate Democrats
Subject: Co-sponsorship request/LRB 3641/Certificate of Birth resulting in Stillbirth

DATE: January 9th, 2004
TO: Members of the Legislature
FROM: Representative Honadel & Senator Roessler
RE: Co-sponsorship request of LRB 3641
Creating a "Certificate of Birth resulting in Stillbirth" for parents of stillborn children

Deadline is Thursday, January 15th, 2004 at 5pm.

Dear Colleagues,

This is a very simple bill that has the potential to bring relief and comfort to hundreds of families each year. Every year in Wisconsin hundreds of expecting parents have a miscarriage and deliver a stillborn child, including the parents from southeast Wisconsin who asked me to look into this issue, who this past summer gave birth to twin stillborn girls. Since 1980, there have been on average 444 stillbirths a year in Wisconsin. That's a rate of 6.2% of all pregnancies ending in miscarriage and stillbirth.

In Wisconsin there is no record of the birth for the parents to receive, even though the mother carried the baby, often to term, and went through the pains of delivery. After a stillbirth, a fetal death report is filed for statistical purposes, but no certificate of birth is offered to the grieving parents (parents can receive a copy of the fetal death report, but that is not a very warm document, and parents would not want to frame it or put it on display in remembrance of their child.) We currently provide Certificates of Live Birth; this bill creates a Certificate of Stillbirth for the parents to receive if they desire. The certificate of Stillbirth will look similar to a current birth certificate, and the process and fees for parents to receive the certificate will be the same as a birth certificate.

Since 2001, there has been a national movement to pass similar legislation in other states. The first to do so was Arizona in 2001, and currently a dozen other states have passed similar legislation, and about a dozen others are working on similar legislation now. This is a non-partisan issue; other states have usually passed their bills with unanimous votes.

The bottom line is that the certificate created by this bill will bring comfort and closure to the hundreds of parents each year in Wisconsin who endure a miscarriage.

Thank you for your consideration. I ask you to please join as a cosponsor on this bill. To be added as a cosponsor, please email Chris Reader in my office or call him at 6-0610. You will be added to both the Assembly and Senate companion bills unless you indicate otherwise.

Sincerely,

Mark Honadel

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, if a pregnancy results in a live birth, a certificate of birth is prepared and filed with the state registrar. A person with a direct and tangible interest in a particular birth certificate may obtain a certified copy of the birth certificate by submitting a written request to the state registrar and paying the applicable fee.

If, instead of a live birth, a pregnancy results in a miscarriage, a fetal death report is prepared and submitted to

the state registrar, but only if the delivery occurs 20 weeks or more after the mother's last normal menstrual period or if the stillbirth weighs 350 grams or more. The state registrar may record information on a fetal death report for use in medical research and may use the information to compile statistics. After the information from a fetal death report is recorded, however, the report is destroyed.

This bill creates a new, optional certificate called a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth. Under the bill, if a birth results in a stillbirth for which a fetal death report is required, the person who is responsible for preparing and filing the fetal death report must inform the parent or parents of the option to have a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth prepared and of how to obtain a certified copy of the certificate. If the parent or parents wish to have a certificate prepared, the person responsible for preparing and filing the fetal death report must, within five days after the delivery of the stillbirth, prepare a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth and file it with the state registrar. Only a parent of the stillbirth may obtain a certified copy of the certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth by requesting a copy from the state registrar in writing and paying a fee of \$10.

Although the notice requirements under the bill apply to stillbirths occurring on or after August 1, 2004, the bill also sets out a special procedure by which a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth may be prepared for stillbirths occurring before that date or if the parent or parents of a stillbirth occurring on or after that date do not request a certificate at the time of delivery but later decide that they would like to have one prepared. Under the special procedure, the state registrar must prepare and file a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth if a parent of a stillbirth for which a certificate was not prepared requests the preparation in writing and presents satisfactory evidence of the facts of the stillbirth.

For further information see the **state** fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Maureen McNally [mmcnally@fmlh.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2004 11:37 AM
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: Stillbirth Study

Jennifer:

I thought Sen. Roessler might have an interest in the upcoming NIH study on stillbirths given her recent legislation...

Maureen

NIH launches five year, \$3M effort to study causes of stillbirth
01/14/2004

In an effort to determine why the number of stillbirths continues to remain "stubbornly high" despite recent advances in obstetric care, the NIH has launched a five-year, \$3 million study to investigate the causes of stillbirths in the United States, the Los Angeles Times reports. Each year in the United States, about one in 200 pregnant women experiences a stillbirth, a rate equivalent to the combined number of infant deaths from all causes. Experts say the actual prevalence of stillbirths may be even higher because there is a lack of uniform criteria for reporting the deaths, some hospitals may not be required to issue fetal death certificates, and fetal autopsy rates are low; in addition, families who experience stillbirths may be reluctant to discuss the event, further hampering research efforts. Some causes of stillbirth include diabetes and high blood pressure, but physicians cannot determine the cause of stillbirth in more than 50% of cases. In an effort to gather substantive information about the condition, the NIH is helping to launch the Stillbirth Research Collaborative Network, which will include five research sites staffed by a range of professionals, including physicians, scientists, and grief counselors. The researchers plan to study at least 500 cases of stillbirths and conduct medical tests to determine whether infections, placenta complications, umbilical cord abnormalities, or genetic factors caused the deaths. The researchers also plan to develop guidelines for reporting and investigating stillbirths and to formulate materials to assist families coping with the loss of a fetus (Roan, 1/12).

Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Reader, Chris
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2004 8:52 AM
To: Halbur, Jennifer

Hey Jennifer- The stillbirth bills are on their way to the Clerks' offices- just an FYI, the senate version is LRB 3974. Here is a list of our cosponsors-



Cosponsors.doc

Thanks & have a great weekend,

Chris

Stillbirth Legislation Cosponsors

Assembly

Mark Honadel
Daniel LeMahieu
Phil Montgomery
Ann Nischke
Mike Huebsch
Curt Gielow
Bobby Gronemus
Sheryl Albers
Scott Suder
Mark Gundrum
Scott Jensen
Mark Gottlieb
Leah Vukmir
Judy Krawczyk
Terry Musser
Carol Owens
Kitty Rhoades
J.A. Hines
Robin Kreibich
Sue Jeskewitz
Chris Sinicki
Bob Ziegelbauer
Jeff Stone
Stephen Nass
Terry McCormick
Scott Gunderson
Dave Ward
Becky Weber

Senate

Carol Roessler
Alberta Darling
Rob Cowles
Mary Lazich
Dale Schultz
Cathy Stepp

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Seaquist, Sara
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2004 9:59
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: FW: Wisconsin Missing Angels Bill
CR email...heavenly angels...

-----Original Message-----

From: Cherie Klopp [mailto:cherklop@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2004 8:23 AM
To: carol.roessler@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Wisconsin Missing Angels Bill

Dear Senator:

Attached is a letter from Richard Olsen, Founder and National Director of the National Stillbirth Society. Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf on Stillbirth parents of Wisconsin!

Cherie Klopp
Wisconsin Director, NSS

Do you Yahoo!?
Yahoo! Hotjobs: [Enter the "Signing Bonus" Sweepstakes](#)



Sudden Antenatal Death Syndrome

NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Richard K. Olsen, Founder & Father
Susan E. Bigler, Administrator
Deborah Brooks, Stillbirth Mother
Clair & Kevin Baca, Stillbirth Couple
Cheryl Carter, Legislative Co-Chair
Jason Collins, MD, OB/GYN
Norman Leonard Cousins, JD
Pat Flynn, Legislative Co-Chair
Eugene Russell Hardwick, PhD
Margarete Heber, Stillbirth Mother
Millie M. Lawton, Nonagenarian
Kimberly Lewis, Native American
Tiffin Yaman, Fundraising Chair

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORS

Lee Metcalf - Australia
Jodi Brooks - Canada
Christine Rose - NZ
Lynn Huggins Cooper - UK
Amanda Marsted - Mexico

STATE DIRECTORS

Michelle Anglin - AL
Shawnda Hammonds - AR
Sharon E. Arnold - AZ
Clair & Kevin Baca - CA
Caprice Bass - CO
Abigail Evanko - Weber - CT
Heather Murray - DE
Melissa Grow - FL
Kathleen Fortner - GA
Angela Bilan - HI
Jan Caruthers - IA
Michelle Hildebrand - IL
Jessamine McAtee - IN
Stinna Steward - KS
Jeanie O'Bryan - KY
Sarah Hodges - LA
Karrriann & Russell Clark - MA
Laura Kiley - MD
Susan Gillmor - ME
Denise Bacon - MI
Candy & Stephen McVicar - MN
Lindsay Yates - MO
Brandi McKeenan - MS
Deborah Kuhn - NC
Tina Ding - ND
Tabitha & Brian Kirke - NE
Jane Lebak - NH
Robert Proto - NJ
Renee Padilla - NM
Lana & Len Marazzo - NV
Linda Carozzo - NY
Robin Polley - OH
Denise Phillips - OK
Shawna Lapp - OR
Lisa Maloney - PA
Kimberly Dees - SC
Jennifer Czepczyuski - TN
Audra Ashton - TX
Jennifer Meinke - UT
Deanna Marroletti - VA
Daniel & Gina Powell - WA
Cheryl Kloop - WI
Paula Farrell - WV
Jeanne Johnson - WY

The National Stillbirth Society Inc.

"Because all our Children Matter"

January 21, 2004

Senator Carol Roessler
Wisconsin State Senate
P O Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Roessler:

RE: Heavenly Angels Bill

The National Stillbirth Society, on behalf of the 26,000 American women a year who suffer a stillbirth, and on behalf of mothers worldwide who experience the same syndrome in even greater numbers, we applaud your introduction of legislation that would add Wisconsin to the list of states that have recognized the need to acknowledge its citizens so affected by issuing them a Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth.

First enacted in Arizona two years ago in response to a campaign by Joanne Cacciatore-Garard, whose daughter Cheyenne died in utero just minutes before her delivery, this law has become a model for similar legislation introduced across the nation. Yesterday the Governor of New Jersey signed their own version into law, after passage by a unanimous vote. (Almost without exception states that have passed it did so on unanimous votes.)

We have enclosed information from our website (www.stillnomore.org/AZ-Bill.htm) that details the rationale for - and the need of - women to be given such recognition. Birth is an event; live or "still" is an outcome. It also details the Arizona legislation with the text of the Bill as enacted. The certificate our mothers seek is one which would acknowledge the event of birth, while clearly identifying the outcomes as being different. To not issue the mother of a "still" baby a certificate is to deny the event ever occurred.

On a technical level, we would point out that the language of the Bill as proposed may be confusing due to references to "miscarriage", a form of pregnancy loss that occurs **prior** to 20 completed weeks of gestation. Stillbirth is a loss that occurs **after** 20 completed weeks. The language in the Bill suggests that "stillbirth" is an (advanced) stage miscarriage. That is not medically correct. Further, it could create an expectation among Wisconsin women who suffer a miscarriage that they too would receive a Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth. The potential for confusion can be eliminated by deleting references to miscarriage and we respectfully request that the sponsors offer such amendment. We would also encourage the sponsors to refer to the legislation by its more familiar name, *The Missing Angels Act*.

Yours very truly,

Richard K. Olsen, Executive Director

cc: Cheryl Kloop, NSS State Director (WI), MISS Foundation, First Candle/SIDS Alliance

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Seaquist, Sara
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2004 10:01 AM
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: FW: Certificate of Stillbirth



IA_COSB.gif



Sample_Certificate_
IN.jpg

CR email...angels

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard K. Olsen [mailto:rko@cox.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2004 9:11 AM
To: rep.honadel@legis.state.wi.us; sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Certificate of Stillbirth

Dear Rep. Hondale and Senator Roessler:

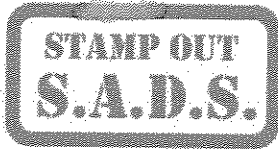
We sent each of you a letter with attachments today by regular mail regarding your stillbirth legislation which we support. Attached you will find examples of state's certificates, Iowa which issues them (along with Kentucky) as a matter of policy, not legislation, and Indiana (along with 10 other states) that have already enacted legislation. The most recent is New Jersey whose governor signed the bill yesterday. Our preference, if we were to allowed one, would be for a certificate along the lines of that which Iowa issues. It is tastefully done and shows the mother great respect. Indiana, on the other hand, issues a Certificate that has all the warmth of a tax receipt. This should be able to be worked out with the Director of Vital Records and the form of certificate does not need to be in the bill.

Something we did not mention in our letter but should have is the Bill as enacted should specify that Certificates shall be issued upon request to all Wisconsin women who have suffered a stillbirth, which would include those whose stillbirth occurred BEFORE the effective date of the legislation. A copy of the Fetal Death Certificate would serve as proof of the prior stillbirth, or such other documentation as the Director of Vital Records shall deem sufficient to establish the occurrence of a stillbirth. A notarized affidavit of the mother would be acceptable in cases where other records are not available. (NSS National Directors Pat Flynn suffered her stillbirth 25 years ago!) Lest one argue that this subjects the Department of Vital Records to a possible tidal wave of applications we would point out 1) that the annual number of Wisconsin stillbirth runs around 450, not all of whom will ask for a Certificate, 2) that the women will be paying for their Certificates, and 3) it amounts to only about 1% of live birth Certificates issued annually so should not present any particular hardship.

Thank you for your support.

Richard K. Olsen, Executive Director
The National Stillbirth Society, Inc.
Website: www.stillnomore.org
Email: stillnomore@cox.net
Tel: 602-216-6600

|||||



Sudden Antenatal Death Syndrome

The National Stillbirth Society Inc.

"Because all our Children Matter"

January 21, 2004

JAN 26 2004

NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Richard K. Olsen, Founder & Father.
Susan E. Bigler, Administrator
Deborah Brooks, Stillbirth Mother
Clair & Kevin Baca, Stillbirth Couple
Cheryl Carter, Legislative Co-Chair
Jason Collins, MD, OB/GYN
Norman Leonard Cousins, JD
Pat Flynn, Legislative Co-Chair
Eugene Russell Hardwick, PhD
Margarete Heber, Stillbirth Mother
Millie M. Lawton, Nonagenarian
Kimberly Lewis, Native American
Tiffin Yaman, Fundraising Chair

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORS

Lee Metcalf - Australia
Jodi Brooks - Canada
Christine Rose - NZ
Lynn Huggins Cooper - UK
Amanda Marsted - Mexico

STATE DIRECTORS

Michelle Anglin - AL
Shawnda Hammonds - AR
Sharon E. Arnold - AZ
Clair & Kevin Baca - CA
Caprice Bass - CO
Abigail Evanko-Weber - CT
Heather Murray - DE
Melissa Grow - FL
Kathleen Fortner - GA
Angela Bilan - HI
Jan Caruthers - IA
Michelle Hildebrand - IL
Jessamine McAtee - IN
Stinna Steward - KS
Jeanie O'Bryan - KY
Sarah Hodges - LA
Karrriann & Russell Clark - MA
Laura Kiley - MD
Susan Gillmor - ME
Denise Bacon - MI
Candy & Stephen McVicar - MN
Lindsay Yates - MO
Brandi McKeenan - MS
Deborah Kuhn - NC
Tina Ding - ND
Tabitha & Brian Kirke - NE
Jane Lebak - NH
Robert Proto - NJ
Renee Padilla - NM
Lana & Len Marazzo - NV
Linda Carrozzo - NY
Robin Polley - OH
Denise Phillips - OK
Shawna Lapp - OR
Lisa Maloney - PA
Kimberly Dees - SC
Jennifer Czepczyuski - TN
Audra Ashton - TX
Jennifer Meinke - UT
Deanna Marcolletti - VA
Daniel & Gina Powell - WA
Cheryl Kloop - WI
Paula Farrell - WV
Jeanne Johnson - WY

Miscarriage
is not
mentioned
in the
bill, only
the
loss

Senator Carol Roessler
Wisconsin State Senate
P O Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Roessler:

RE: Heavenly Angels Bill

The National Stillbirth Society, on behalf of the 26,000 American women a year who suffer a stillbirth, and on behalf of mothers worldwide who experience the same syndrome in even greater numbers, we applaud your introduction of legislation that would add Wisconsin to the list of states that have recognized the need to acknowledge its citizens so affected by issuing them a Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth.

First enacted in Arizona two years ago in response to a campaign by Joanne Cacciatore-Garard, whose daughter Cheyenne died in utero just minutes before her delivery, this law has become a model for similar legislation introduced across the nation. Yesterday the Governor of New Jersey signed their own version into law, after passage by a unanimous vote. (Almost without exception states that have passed it did so on unanimous votes.)

We have enclosed information from our website (www.stillnomore.org/AZ-Bill.htm) that details the rationale for - and the need of - women to be given such recognition. Birth is an event, live or "still" is an outcome. It also details the Arizona legislation with the text of the Bill as enacted. The certificate our mothers seek is one which would acknowledge the event of birth, while clearly identifying the outcomes as being different. To not issue the mother of a "still" baby a certificate is to deny the event ever occurred.

On a technical level, we would point out that the language of the Bill as proposed may be confusing due to references to "miscarriage", a form of pregnancy loss that occurs **prior** to 20 completed weeks of gestation. Stillbirth is a loss that occurs **after** 20 completed weeks. The language in the Bill suggests that "stillbirth" is an (advanced) stage miscarriage. That is not medically correct. Further, it could create an expectation among Wisconsin women who suffer a miscarriage that they too would receive a Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth. The potential for confusion can be eliminated by deleting references to miscarriage and we respectfully request that the sponsors offer such amendment. We would also encourage the sponsors to refer to the legislation by its more familiar name, *The Missing Angels Act*.

Yours very truly,

Richard K. Olsen, Executive Director

cc: Cheryl Kloop, NSS State Director (WI), MISS Foundation, First Candle/SIDS Alliance

Why We Need A Certificate of Still Birth

Haven't we all at one time been in a movie theater when the film broke? One moment we're caught up in the action and suddenly, there is no story on the screen. Time out while the projectionist rethreads the rest of the reel. If only life were like that. If only sudden interruptions could pick up where they left off. But they can't.



"Mommy has birth certificates for all of us. They prove that we were born."

The birth of a dead baby is a break in the action. The story is over. We get to say hello and goodbye in the same breath. Instead of a bright future, all we're left with is shattered dreams of what might have been. When movie breaks we get our money back. In real life when the "film" breaks we're given a fetal death certificate. No baby to take home. No reward for the months of waiting. No acknowledgement for having given birth.

When we discover that what once lived within us is dead we want to run away. But we can't. First we must deliver our baby, just like mothers of live babies do. We must endure the pain. Just like mothers of live babies. And when it's over we hold our baby, just like mothers of live babies do. But then we have to give our baby back, and go home to an empty nursery.

Contrary to what the pundits say, it is possible to fool Mother Nature. She doesn't know our baby died, and so she dutifully produces milk to nourish and protect that, which is no longer. She knows we gave birth. We know we gave birth. But the state says not. Stillbirth mothers are not yet acknowledged as mothers by most states, but we're working to change that.

"We will recognize your baby's death, but not its birth" is the message.

But how can that die which has not been born? How did it come into being? Did it ride a space ship to earth? Or did it arrive the way every other baby arrived, from the womb of a mother who conceived and delivered it?

Birth is a process that all mothers endure; live or "still" is the outcome of that process. If we recognize a live birth, why would the state not recognize a stillbirth? Is it to punish the mother whose baby is born dead? Is she not somehow worthy? Did she fail somehow? That's what she thinks. If we give a the mother of a live birth a "Certificate of Live Birth" why would we not give the mother of a stillborn baby a Certificate of Still Birth? That's the reality of what happened.

All mothers give birth; only the outcomes of those births differ.

To deny a woman a "Certificate of Still Birth", when she fails to produce a living child, is to say that she did not give birth, which is not true. To deny a woman recognition for this seminal event in her life is to deny the event occurred. To deny a woman recognition is to tell her she is a failure. It is an open wound upon her soul that will never heal unless and until her sacrifice is recognized, just as live birth mothers are recognized.

On August 9, 2001 in Phoenix, Arizona, Sharon Arnold, wife of NSS Founder Richard K. Olsen, along

<http://stillnomore.org/bill.htm>

1/21/2004

with Joanne Cacciatore-Garard, NSS National Director and founder of the MISS Foundation, were presented the first Certificates of Birth Resulting in Still Birth to be issued in the United States. The state of Arizona has led the way by acknowledging that these brave women gave birth and that their daughters, Camille and Cheyenne, though born still, did for one brief and glorious moment pass through this world. Your state should recognize you and your babies too, *because all our children matter.*

DETAILS OF HOW ARIZONA DID IT

The National Stillbirth Society

Last Updated 05/17/2003 Design donated by *Web-Writer*

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Seaquist, Sara
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2004 10:00 AM
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: FW: Link to Missing Angels Bill Petition on CR email...angels

-----Original Message-----

From: Cherie Klopp [mailto:cherklop@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2004 8:43 AM
To: rep.honadel@legis.state.wi.us; carol.roessler@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Link to Missing Angels Bill Petition on line

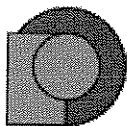
I thought I'd send you the link to our on line petition as well.

<http://www.petitiononline.com/4ourkids/petition.html>

Cherie Klopp
Wisconsin Director, NSS

"This e-mail made with 100% recycled electrons and magnetic material." 

Do you Yahoo!?
Yahoo! Hotjobs: [Enter the "Signing Bonus" Sweepstakes](#)



Missing Angels Bill - Stillborn Birth Certificates

[View Current Signatures](#) - [Sign the Petition](#)

To: Legislators in the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming

We, the undersigned, who are residents of, and voters in the States listed above, troubled by the indifferent and callous administrative processes that consequently serve to invalidate the birth of our stillborn children, ask for the enactment of legislation, or changes in current State procedures, that would provide for the issuance of a "Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth".

In the States listed above, Mothers who carry a baby to near full term, but then, through no fault of their own, give birth to a stillborn child, are NOT issued a "Certificate of Birth" of any kind for their children. Current procedures and laws in those States will not allow for it. In most States, the Mother would more than likely receive only a certificate or report of fetal death. In some States, those documents won't even have the child's name on it.

As of February 18, 2003, only Arizona, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts and Utah validate the birth of a stillborn child by giving parents, upon request, a "Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth" or a "Certificate of Stillbirth". These legal documents serve to provide validation, legitimacy, and help parents through the grieving and healing process following the death of a child.

This is not a "Right to Life" or a "Right to Choose" issue. This is about common sense and closure for the families affected by stillbirth. How can a State issue a certificate or report of fetal death for a child who was never officially born?

By electronically signing this petition, you are affirming that you are 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the United States, and you fully support the enactment of legislation, or changes in procedures in your State, that would provide for the issuance of a "Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth" rather than having your State perpetuate their currently invalidating, cold, and heartless procedures.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned

[Click Here to Sign Petition](#)

[View Current Signatures](#)

The Missing Angels Bill - Stillborn Birth Certificates Petition to Legislators in the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming was **created by Parents of Stillborn Children and written by John Nevels**. This petition is hosted here at www.PetitionOnline.com as a public service. There is no endorsement of this petition, express or implied, by [Artifice, Inc.](#) or our sponsors. For technical support please use our simple [Petition Help](#) form.

[Send this to a friend](#)

[Send Petition to a Friend](#) - [Petition FAQ](#) - [Start a Petition](#) - [Contributions](#) - [Privacy](#) - [Media Kit](#) - [Comments and Suggestions](#)
[PetitionOnline](#) - [DesignCommunity](#) - [3D Designers](#) - [Gallery](#) - [Architecture Forum](#) - [3D Developers](#) - [Games](#) - [Search](#)

<http://www.PetitionOnline.com/4ourkids/petition.html>

© 1999-2003 [Artifice, Inc.](#) - All Rights Reserved.

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Reader, Chris
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2004 4:25 PM
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: RE: SB 399

Wonderful,

Thankyou!
Chris

-----Original Message-----

From: Halbur, Jennifer
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2004 4:25 PM
To: Reader, Chris
Subject: RE: SB 399

Chris,

I am pretty confident that this bill will get a hearing in Feb. Carol and I still need to decide what will be addressed. I'll let you know as soon as I know.

Thanks!
Jennifer

-----Original Message-----

From: Reader, Chris
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2004 1:55 PM
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: SB 399

Jennifer,

I see that the stillbirth legislation has been given a Senate Bill number, 399. We are still waiting for a bill number in the Assembly.

Do you know when the bill might come up for a hearing? There are some parents who would like to come testify, and I want to let them know when the hearing will be in both the Senate and Assembly as soon as possible.

Thanks,
Chris

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Reader, Chris
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2004 12:07 PM
To: 'rko@cox.net'
Cc: 'heavenheart1@netscape.net'; 'mctklopp@nnex.net'; Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: Wisconsin Certificate of Birth resulting in Stillbirth

Dear Richard,

I recieved your letter today and have visited the stillnomore.org website. Thank you- the information is very informative and will be useful as we work the bill through the committee's in the Wisconsin legislature.

I looked into your concern regarding the references to a miscarriage in our bill, and the possible technical confusion. The reference to a 'miscarriage' is only in the analysis of the bill, and not in the actual bill language- therefore we shouldn't need to amend the bill.

Thank you again for the information. If you have any further information or statistics that will help us move the bill faster, we would appreciate all you could share. I would also appreciate it if you could pass along any information you have regarding opposition you have recieved in other states. While I believe we have minimized most, if not all, opposition during the drafting of the bill, there still may be some that I am not thinking of that you have seen.

Thanks again for your help with this important legislation!

Chris Reader

*Office of Representative Mark Honadel
Wisconsin State Assembly, 21st. District
Room 6 North, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708
(888) 534-0021 toll free
(608) 266-0610*

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Richard K. Olsen [rko@cox.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2004 1:41 PM
To: Reader, Chris
Cc: heavenheart1@netscape.net; mctklopp@nnex.net.; Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: Re: Wisconsin Certificate of Birth resulting in Stillbirth

Chris,

Other than California where the Bill was opposed by a coalition headed by (hold on to your seat) The American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, The California Medical Association, Planned Parenthood of Northern California and The American Civil Liberties Union (gulp!) we have no - ZERO - opposition in any state from any faction, including any of the aforementioned groups who came out of the woodwork in California. Their reason in California was they saw the Bill as a smoke screen for unnamed pro-life groups that they alleged we were fronting for who were basically trying to "out" California women who were having late term elective terminations of pregnancy. I told the lobbyist for ACOG she was a "vicious viper" whereupon she threatened to sue, which I encouraged her to do. The sponsor got cold feet and we asked the Committee Chairwoman to pull the Bill which she did. That was it. Not a single person has risen in any state at any stage of the process because once they read it they understand it has nothing to do with the "elective termination" issue. (See. we don't even use the "A" word, that's how far away from the issue we are.)

Richard K. Olsen, Executive Director
The National Stillbirth Society, Inc.
Website: www.stillnomore.org
Email: stillnomore@cox.net
Tel: 602-216-6600

----- Original Message -----

From: "Reader, Chris" <Chris.Reader@legis.state.wi.us>
To: <rko@cox.net>
Cc: <heavenheart1@netscape.net>; <mctklopp@nnex.net,>; "Halbur, Jennifer" <Jennifer.Halbur@legis.state.wi.us>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2004 11:07 AM
Subject: Wisconsin Certificate of Birth resulting in Stillbirth

> Dear Richard,
>
> I recieved your letter today and have visited the stillnomore.org website.
> Thank you- the information is very informative and will be useful as we
> work
> the bill through the committee's in the Wisconsin legislature.
>
> I looked into your concern regarding the references to a miscarriage in
> our
> bill, and the possible technical confusion. The reference to a
> 'miscarriage' is only in the analysis of the bill, and not in the actual
> bill language- therefore we shouldn't need to amend the bill.
>
> Thank you again for the information. If you have any further information
> or

> statistics that will help us move the bill faster, we would appreciate all
> you could share. I would also appreciate it if you could pass along any
> information you have regarding opposition you have recieved in other
states.

> While I believe we have minimized most, if not all, opposition during the
> drafting of the bill, there still may be some that I am not thinking of
that

> you have seen.

>
> Thanks again for your help with this important legislation!

>
> Chris Reader
> Office of Representative Mark Honadel
> Wisconsin State Assembly, 21st. District
> Room 6 North, State Capitol
> P.O. Box 8952
> Madison, WI 53708
> (888) 534-0021 toll free
> (608) 266-0610

>
>
>
>

Jennifer Petro
4155 Lakeshore Drive
Rhineland, WI 54501
715-362-9497
tjpetro@newnorth.net



February 5, 2004

RE: Senate Bill 399

Dear Senator:

As a registered voter, I feel compelled to write to you regarding a critical issue that is very important to me. I write speaking for many families in your home state and nationwide. I hope that because of this, you will be prompted to take a little time and please consider what I am about to share with you.

I would like to share the story of my son, Philip James Petro with you. Our family was blessed in July of 1999 to find out we were pregnant for the first time. My husband and I have dreamed of our children for quite some time. Our happiness continued with all the usual firsts: heartbeat, movement, ultrasound, etc. Then on Thanksgiving, the day that we are most aware of our blessings, the unthinkable happened. I went into labor at barely 24 weeks. We rushed to the hospital and in spite of all the doctors efforts our son was stillborn. The statistics are shocking for this type of death. There are more than 30,000 babies 'stillborn' in the U.S. every year. These are babies born past the 20th week of pregnancy, and many of them are apparently healthy babies.

In the time since his death I have searched for support both in my local area and online. To my surprise there are too many parents that have had this same experience. I have also had to fight the misconceptions of people who are lucky enough not to have experienced this. Most feel that a child that has been stillborn is not significant. It is thought that the loss is not as severe as a child who may be 2 or 7 or 16. The only difference is the amount of time that is spent with that child. It does not affect the amount of bonding or love that you have with that child.

My main concern is the education so desperately needed within our community about 'fetal' death. I realize this is a provocative subject. It is one that sparks great emotional pain in me as well. You see, in 1999 after Philip's death, I called the hospital in which he was born to ask for either a birth or death certificate. One of the difficult issues of 'fetal' death, or early neonatal death is the lack of tangible memories with the child- thus *any memento* of the child's existence is critical in the healing process.

I was then told that there is not a "certificate" given to the parents of a stillborn child. There is a fetal demise form required by the state to be filled out.

The thought that my son was so insignificant to just have been part of my medical records is something I am still trying to figure out. I did have a child. I held him and touched his hands and toes. I kissed him and said a prayer goodbye. I had milk in my breasts the day I buried him. The

Jennifer Petro
4155 Lakeshore Drive
Rhineland, WI 54501
715-362-9497
tjpetro@newnorth.net

fact that this state which I love and have planned to grow old in, did not acknowledge my baby's life and death, nor the pain I felt as a woman who lost her baby, is tragic.

For mothers of stillborn infants, the immeasurable physical pain and trauma of childbirth is coupled with the most emotionally traumatic- death.

It is an event that deserves far more respect than it receives.

During this session, I hope you will be hearing about a bill SB 399 nicknamed the Missing Angels Bill. For Philip and tens of thousands of grieving Wisconsin families, I ask you to help me in changing our current protocol. Passing this bill would be excellent steps in helping the thousands of parents begin to have tangible memories. So families can begin to grieve for their child.

I ask that all children who are born, alive or still, be issued a birth certificate validating their existence. Their births are no different than any other except their parents must leave the hospital without their child. Please do not allow our state to continue to "kill" these children again in the hearts of future parents by not acknowledging their existence.

On February 12th at 9:00 am the committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care will be holding a hearing on this bill. My family and many others would appreciate your support. I would be proud to have Wisconsin join Arizona, Utah, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, and Virginia in issuing Certificates of Stillbirth.

Respectfully,



Jennifer L. Petro



Baby's left footprint



Baby's right footprint



Mother's left thumbprint



Mother's right thumbprint

Sex of child Male Weight at birth 7 pounds 2.8 ounces. Length 11 inches

THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT FOR OFFICIAL USE

REPORT OF FETAL DEATH

FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY

NAME (First, Middle, Last) (Optional - May be left blank) PHILIP JAMES PETICO		1. DATE OF DELIVERY (Month, Day, Year) November 25, 1999	2. HOUR 1:58 PM	3. SEX Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
4a. Plurality (Specify) Single	4b. IF NOT SINGLE Specify: First, Second, etc.	5. HOSPITAL - NAME and CAMPUS (if not in hospital, give street and number or location) Langlade Memorial Hospital		
6. COUNTY OF DELIVERY Langlade	7. DELIVERY OCCURRED INSIDE CITY, VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP Antigo		8. (CHECK ONE) City <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vill <input type="checkbox"/> Twnshp <input type="checkbox"/>	
9. ATTENDANT NAME Gary Hessenes	10. WISCONSIN LICENSE NUMBER 26199	11. TITLE 1. M.D. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. D.O. <input type="checkbox"/> 3. CNM <input type="checkbox"/> 4. ORN <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Other <input type="checkbox"/>		12. DATE REPORT COMPLETED (Month, Day, Year) November 26, 1999
13. MAILING ADDRESS OF FILING PARTY (Street & Number - City, State, ZIP) 117 East Fifth Avenue, Antigo, WI 54409				
14. NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS OF FACILITY DISPOSING OF REMAINS Strasser-Roller Funeral Home, 504 Edison St., Antigo, WI 54409				
15. MOTHER'S CURRENT NAME (First, Middle, Last) Jennifer L. Petro		16. MOTHER'S BIRTH SURNAME GILBERT		
17. RESIDENCE - STATE WISCONSIN	18. RESIDENCE - COUNTY ONEIDA	19. RESIDENCE INSIDE CITY, VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP PINE LAKE		20. (CHECK ONE) City <input type="checkbox"/> Vill <input type="checkbox"/> Twnshp <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH USE ONLY

21. IS MOTHER MARRIED? (at any time between conception and delivery) YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		22a. MOTHER'S DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year) January 27, 1976	22b. HUSBAND'S DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year) January 2, 1975
23. RACE White <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Amer Ind. <input type="checkbox"/> etc.	24. HISPANIC ORIGIN Specify Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	25. EDUCATION Highest Grade Completed Elem. <input type="checkbox"/> High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> College <input type="checkbox"/> (11, 12, 13, 14, or 15)	26. EMPLOYMENT ONE YEAR AGO Occupation: technician Kind of Business or Industry: Pit Stop, Lubrication Center
27. PREVIOUS DELIVERIES (Exclude this Delivery.) LIVE BIRTHS (Now Living) a. Number <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE		OTHER TERMINATIONS (Spontaneous or induced) (Less than 20 wks) d. Number <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	
28. MONTH OF PREGNANCY PRENATAL CARE BEGAN (Month 1-9; Not trimester) 2		29. TOTAL NUMBER OF PRENATAL VISITS 6	
30. DATE LAST NORMAL MENSES BEGAN (Month, Day, Year) 6/16/1999		31. CLINICAL ESTIMATE OF GESTATION (Weeks) 24	

32. CIGARETTE USE DURING PREGNANCY? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, avg. number cigarettes per day.	33. ALCOHOL USE DURING PREGNANCY? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, avg. number drinks per week.	34. WEIGHT GAIN/LOSS DURING PREGNANCY. Net pounds gained: 17 OR Net pounds lost.	
35. PART I FETAL DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: Fetal or maternal condition directly causing fetal death A. Immediate Cause: CARO PROLAPSE		Fetal or Maternal Cause (State Which) maternal	
39. Fetal and/or maternal conditions, if any, giving rise to the immediate cause (A), stating the underlying cause last B. Consequence of: cervical incompetence		maternal	
40. C. Consequence of: breech presentation		maternal	
37. BIRTHWEIGHT OF FETUS (Original unconverted lbs. or grams) Grams OR 1 lbs. 2.8 oz.		36. FETUS DIED 1. Before Labor <input type="checkbox"/> 2. During Labor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. During Deliv. <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>	
41. PART II OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS of fetus or mother; conditions contributing to fetal death but not related to cause given in PART I (A) previous cervical surgery		38. CROWN - HEEL LENGTH (Original unconverted inches or centimeters) centimeters OR 11 in	

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

39. MEDICAL HISTORY FOR THIS PREGNANCY 01A <input type="checkbox"/> Anemia (Hct. < 30/Hgb. < 10) 02B <input type="checkbox"/> Cardiac disease 03C <input type="checkbox"/> Acute or chronic lung disease 04D <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-existing Diabetes 05E <input type="checkbox"/> Gestational Diabetes 06F <input type="checkbox"/> Genital Herpes 07G <input type="checkbox"/> Other STD (chlamydia, GC) 08H <input type="checkbox"/> Hydramnios/Oligohydramnios 09I <input type="checkbox"/> Hemoglobinopathy 10J <input type="checkbox"/> Hypertension, chronic 11K <input type="checkbox"/> Hypertension, pregnancy assoc 12L <input type="checkbox"/> Eclampsia 13M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incompetent cervix 14N <input type="checkbox"/> Previous infant 4000+ grams 15O <input type="checkbox"/> Previous preterm or small-for-gestational-age infant 16P <input type="checkbox"/> Renal Disease 17Q <input type="checkbox"/> Rh sensitization 18R <input type="checkbox"/> Uterine Bleeding 19S <input type="checkbox"/> None 20T <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify	41. EVENTS OF LABOR AND/OR DELIVERY 01A <input type="checkbox"/> Febrile (> 100 F or 38 C) 02B <input type="checkbox"/> Meconium, Moderate/heavy 03C <input type="checkbox"/> Prem. rupture of membranes (> 12 hrs) 04D <input type="checkbox"/> Abruptio placenta 05E <input type="checkbox"/> Placenta previa 06F <input type="checkbox"/> Other excessive bleeding 07G <input type="checkbox"/> Seizures during labor 08H <input type="checkbox"/> Precipitous labor (< 3 hrs) 09I <input type="checkbox"/> Prolonged labor (> 20 hrs) 10J <input type="checkbox"/> Dysfunctional labor 11K <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Breech footling 12L <input type="checkbox"/> Other malpresentation 13M <input type="checkbox"/> Cephalopelvic disproportion 14N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cord prolapse 15O <input type="checkbox"/> Anesthetic complications 16P <input type="checkbox"/> Fetal distress 17Q <input type="checkbox"/> None 18R <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify	44. CONGENITAL ANOMALIES OF FETUS 01A <input type="checkbox"/> Anencephalus 02B <input type="checkbox"/> Spina bifida/Meningocele 03C <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrocephalus 04D <input type="checkbox"/> Microcephalus 05E <input type="checkbox"/> Other Cent. Nerv. Sys. anomalies Specify: 06F <input type="checkbox"/> Heart malformations 07G <input type="checkbox"/> Other Circ./respir. anomalies Specify: 08H <input type="checkbox"/> Rectal atresia/stenosis 09I <input type="checkbox"/> Tracheo-esophageal fistula/Esoophageal atresia 10J <input type="checkbox"/> Omphalocele/Gastroschisis 11K <input type="checkbox"/> Other gastrointestinal anomalies Specify: 12L <input type="checkbox"/> Malformed genitalia 13M <input type="checkbox"/> Renal agenesis 14N <input type="checkbox"/> Other urogenital anomalies Specify: 15O <input type="checkbox"/> Cleft lip/palate 16P <input type="checkbox"/> Polydactyly/Syndactyly/Acrodactyly 17Q <input type="checkbox"/> Club foot 18R <input type="checkbox"/> Diaphragmatic hernia 19S <input type="checkbox"/> Other musculoskeletal/skeletal anomalies Specify: 20T <input type="checkbox"/> Down syndrome 21U <input type="checkbox"/> Other chromosomal anomalies Specify: 22V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None 23W <input type="checkbox"/> Pending Assess 24X <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify
40. OBSTETRIC PROCEDURES 01A <input type="checkbox"/> Amniocentesis 02B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic fetal monitoring 03C <input type="checkbox"/> Induction of labor 04D <input type="checkbox"/> Stimulation of labor 05E <input type="checkbox"/> Tocodysis 06F <input type="checkbox"/> Ultrasound 07G <input type="checkbox"/> Postpartum sterilization 08H <input type="checkbox"/> None 09I <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify	42. METHOD OF DELIVERY 01A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vaginal 02B <input type="checkbox"/> Vaginal after previous C-section 03C <input type="checkbox"/> Primary C-section 04D <input type="checkbox"/> Repeat C-section 05E <input type="checkbox"/> Forceps 06F <input type="checkbox"/> Hysterotomy/Hysterectomy 07G <input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum	43. ASSESSMENT (Check Each Done) 01A <input type="checkbox"/> External Clinical Eval. 02B <input type="checkbox"/> Autopsy 03C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photographs 04D <input type="checkbox"/> X-Rays 05E <input type="checkbox"/> Chromosomal Studies 06F <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Placental Exam 07G <input type="checkbox"/> Cultures (Infectious)

NOTE: THIS FORM IS REQUIRED FOR ANY DELIVERY OF 20 WEEKS OR MORE GESTATION OR IF FETUS WEIGHS 350 GRAMS OR MORE WHEN DEATH IS INDICATED BY THE FACT THAT THE FETUS SHOWS NO EVIDENCE OF LIFE. THIS FORM IS NOT TO BE USED FOR INDUCED ABORTIONS.

Halbur, Jennifer

SB 399

From: Seaquist, Sara
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2004 4:05 PM
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: heavenly angels

Deborah Schneider of Plymouth, WI wanted to let CR know that she supports the heavenly angels bill...

FEB 09 2004

Jennifer Petro
4155 Lakeshore Drive
Rhineland, WI 54501
715-362-9497
tjpetro@newnorth.net

February 5, 2004

RE: Senate Bill 399

Dear Senator:

As a registered voter, I feel compelled to write to you regarding a critical issue that is very important to me. I write speaking for many families in your home state and nationwide. I hope that because of this, you will be prompted to take a little time and please consider what I am about to share with you.

I would like to share the story of my son, Philip James Petro with you. Our family was blessed in July of 1999 to find out we were pregnant for the first time. My husband and I have dreamed of our children for quite some time. Our happiness continued with all the usual firsts: heartbeat, movement, ultrasound, etc. Then on Thanksgiving, the day that we are most aware of our blessings, the unthinkable happened. I went into labor at barely 24 weeks. We rushed to the hospital and in spite of all the doctors efforts our son was stillborn. The statistics are shocking for this type of death. There are more than 30,000 babies 'stillborn' in the U.S. every year. These are babies born past the 20th week of pregnancy, and many of them are apparently healthy babies.

In the time since his death I have searched for support both in my local area and online. To my surprise there are too many parents that have had this same experience. I have also had to fight the misconceptions of people who are lucky enough not to have experienced this. Most feel that a child that has been stillborn is not significant. It is thought that the loss is not as severe as a child who may be 2 or 7 or 16. The only difference is the amount of time that is spent with that child. It does not affect the amount of bonding or love that you have with that child.

My main concern is the education so desperately needed within our community about 'fetal' death. I realize this is a provocative subject. It is one that sparks great emotional pain in me as well. You see, in 1999 after Philip's death, I called the hospital in which he was born to ask for either a birth or death certificate. One of the difficult issues of 'fetal' death, or early neonatal death is the lack of tangible memories with the child- thus *any memento* of the child's existence is critical in the healing process.

I was then told that there is not a "certificate" given to the parents of a stillborn child. There is a fetal demise form required by the state to be filled out.

The thought that my son was so insignificant to just have been part of my medical records is something I am still trying to figure out. I did have a child. I held him and touched his hands and toes. I kissed him and said a prayer goodbye. I had milk in my breasts the day I buried him. The

Jennifer Petro
4155 Lakeshore Drive
Rhineland, WI 54501
715-362-9497

tjpetro@newnorth.net

fact that this state which I love and have planned to grow old in, did not acknowledge my baby's life and death, nor the pain I felt as a woman who lost her baby, is tragic.

For mothers of stillborn infants, the immeasurable physical pain and trauma of childbirth is coupled with the most emotionally traumatic- death.

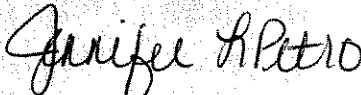
It is an event that deserves far more respect than it receives.

During this session, I hope you will be hearing about a bill SB 399 nicknamed the Missing Angels Bill. For Philip and tens of thousands of grieving Wisconsin families, I ask you to help me in changing our current protocol. Passing this bill would be excellent steps in helping the thousands of parents begin to have tangible memories. So families can begin to grieve for their child.

I ask that all children who are born, alive or still, be issued a birth certificate validating their existence. Their births are no different than any other except their parents must leave the hospital without their child. Please do not allow our state to continue to "kill" these children again in the hearts of future parents by not acknowledging their existence.

On February 12th at 9:00 am the committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care will be holding a hearing on this bill. My family and many others would appreciate your support. I would be proud to have Wisconsin join Arizona, Utah, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, and Virginia in issuing Certificates of Stillbirth.

Respectfully,


Jennifer L. Petro

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Kurtz, Hunter
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2004 3:42 PM
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 399

-----Original Message-----

From: Fesenmaier, Jennifer [mailto:FesenmaierJ@AyresAssociates.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2004 11:41 AM
To: 'Sen.Roessler@legis.state.wi.us'
Cc: 'sen.chvala@legis.state.wi.us'; 'sen.brown@legis.state.wi.us';
'sen.kanavas@legis.state.wi.us'; 'sen.welch@legis.state.wi.us';
'sen.schultz@legis.state.wi.us'; 'sen.robson@legis.state.wi.us';
'sen.jaunch@legis.state.wi.us'; 'sen.carpenter@legis.state.wi.us';
'cherklop@yahoo.com'
Subject: Senate Bill 399

Senator Roessler,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 399 which is a Bill that will provide issuance of Certification of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth. One year ago at a normal prenatal visit the nurse could not find my babies heart tones and an ultrasound revealed the devastating news that my baby had died. I was 39 weeks along in my first pregnancy with no complication. My husband was called from work to the hospital where I had to tell him that our dream had ended. I was induced that day and after 12 hours of labor gave birth to our stillborn son John Matthew. He was perfect in every way and to this day we do not know why he died. I left the hospital the next day without my baby or anything that acknowledged him. No birth certificate, no death certificate. It was as if he did not exist.

I am here to tell you he did. I carried him and loved him for 9 months. My husband and I, along with many others, saw and felt him kick and even hiccup. I have an ultrasound picture of him sucking his thumb. He was loved by many and our dreams for him were real.

But in this world, as we know it, there is no record of his life or death. All that remains is his gravesite and the hole he has left in our life.

You can help change that. With the passing of this Bill, his life and death, along with the life and death of other babies will be acknowledge. Please continue to support this Bill and get it passed into law. It will not bring back my son or the countless other children born still, but it will show that their life and death meant something in this world and deserves to be acknowledged

Thank you

Jennifer Fesenmaier
Eau Claire, WI



February 12th, 2003
Bill SB #399

Dear State Senate Committee,

My name is Rebecca Lomis-Stephan and I would like to first thank you for taking the time to hear this request for a Stillbirth Certificate.

I am the Mother of five beautiful children, however, my husband and I lost two of the five children on July 4th, 2003 because they were born still at 22 weeks gestation. Their names were Olivia and Abrianna. You could imagine how devastating this was to find out that we were not going to have the wonderful beginning as we did with our other three children. In stead they were dead.

This week would be the most devastating moment in our lives. I gave natural birth to our girls, prepared their funeral, had the wake, and buried them all within a week's time. After the funeral was over, I realized that I was not given any certificate. I went on to call Vital Statistics and they told me that unfortunately our daughters were recorded as a statistic but there would be no certificate. Devastation does not come even close to the horrible slap in the face that we felt. Closure was to be far from our reach.

Since then I went on to start an organization called Heavenly Angels. I founded this organization for the soul purpose of giving other parents a place to find some closure. Making Memorial quilts is our specialty and they are free to all grieving parents. The reason I mention this is because all of us parents who have lost a child to stillbirth have nothing to take away from this but a memory of being pregnant. We have nothing tangible. This would give them at least something but what we all really want is a certificate to state that our children were born. We need this desperately for our personal closure and every parent that goes through this feels the same (according to 245 members of Heavenly Angels).

I thank you again for your time and I am positive you will all make the right decision for all of the grieving parents of stillborn babies in Wisconsin, like my husband and I.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Lomis-Stephan

Ronald Stephan

Heavenly Angels

www.heavenlyangels.us

Vote Record

Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care

Date: 2/12

Moved by: Roessler

Seconded by: Smith

SB 399

Passed

AB _____ SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:
 Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

Committee Member	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Senator Carol Roessler, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Ted Kanavas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Ronald Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Welch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Dale Schultz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Judith Robson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Charles Chvala	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Jauch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Tim Carpenter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	8	1	_____	_____

Motion Carried Motion Failed

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Kurtz, Hunter
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2004 9:13 AM
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: FW: In re SB 399 opposition from BVS

SB 399
T.V. ✓ CK
INTERESTING!!

-----Original Message-----

From: Cherie Klopp [mailto:cherklop@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2004 7:51 AM
To: rep.honadel@legis.state.wi.us; sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Fwd: In re SB 399 opposition from BVS

Dear Senator Roessler and Representative Honadel:

I was so infuriated by BVS opposition yesterday I immediately emailed Richard Olsen from NSS regarding the initial costs of starting this program. His response will follow.

I also wish to add that I work in the Vilas Child Support Agency. Ms. Peterson's argument regarding fraudulent "paternity" is also ~~without merit~~. If an unmarried woman gave birth to a stillborn child, she would have NOTHING to gain by lying about her child's parentage. She will never receive W-2, food stamps or any other county benefit on behalf of that child. She will not be entitled to child support for a child who has died. She will not receive social security benefits on behalf of that child should the potential father pass away. "Legal" paternity is irrelevant in cases such as this.

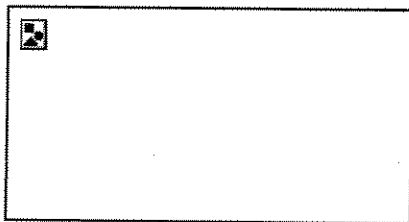
Please do everything you can to help us in getting this bill passed. I thank you so much for everything you are doing for our families.

Sincerely,

Cherie Klopp
Wisconsin Director, National Stillbirth Society

"Richard K. Olsen" <rko@cox.net> wrote:

From: "Richard K. Olsen"
To: "Cherie WI Klopp"
Subject:
Date: Thu, 12 Feb 2004 20:39:04 -0700



Richard K. Olsen, Executive Director
The National Stillbirth Society, Inc.
Website: www.stillnomore.org
Email: stillnomore@cox.net
Telephone: 602-216-6600

Teed
thanks
interesting

Cherie,

1. Without exception in every state that has enacted the legislation, the legislative analysis which accompanied the presentation of the bills indicated that the cost would be "negligible", "minimal" or "insignificant". Several observed that fees to be collected would support the issuance of the Certificates.

2. In the last year for which we were able to find data, Wisconsin recorded just 389 stillbirths. Certificates of Live Birth cost \$12. Assuming the same fee were to be charged for stillbirths, that fee would generate \$4,688 in revenues, practically the entire "annual maintenance cost".

3. During the same year that 389 Wisconsin babies were born still, 65,461 were born live. BVS didn't seem to have much problem keeping up with the live births. Why then would a "handful" of stillbirths - about 6/10 of 1% - pose such a record keeping problem.

4. As far as start up costs, NSS would be more than happy to design and bear the cost of printing enough Certificates for the first two years.

5. Collection of the data would be the same as for live births, but with the addition of a check off box to indicate the birth was LIVE or STILL. There is no need to design a special form. SO where is the \$60,000 going?????

A birth is an EVENT, and deserves a record. Live or Still is an outcome and should be properly noted. Because the baby is still is not a reason to refuse to acknowledge the event happened. Had these babies lived instead of being born still, BVS would have had to issue a Certificate anyway. So what's the big deal?

Richard K. Olsen, Executive Director

The National Stillbirth Society, Inc.

Website: www.stillnomore.org

Email: stillnomore@cox.net

Tel: 602-216-6600

"This e-mail made with 100% recycled electrons and magnetic material."



Do you Yahoo!?

Yahoo! Finance: [Get your refund fast by filing online](#)

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Tony & Jenna Petro [tjpetro@newnorth.net]
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2004 9:40 PM
To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: SB 399

T.U. ✓ CK

Dear Senator Roessler:

First let me apologize for the way I addressed your committee on Thursday February 12th. I was under the impression that we were unable to speak to your committee anymore on this important subject matter and there were many things that needed to be impressed to your committee about our children. I was raised to be confident and outspoken but not rude. Please share my apologizes to the other Senators on your committee.

Second I would like to thank you for being a co-sponsor of this bill. It has been 4 1/2 years since my loss and there are some days that are as fresh as the day it happened. We have come a long way in our small community to try and understand the ways that hospitals, clergy, and funeral homes, as well as the community, can help parents heal. I truly believe that when this bill becomes a law it will open doors in other communities to rethink their procedures and policies.

Stillbirth is becoming less of a taboo subject. It does need to be discussed. Wounds do need to heal. People need to understand and acknowledge. Knowing that our government understands and is supportive in these beliefs helps prove our point to the rest of the world.

Thank you again for your time and support. If there are any questions or anything else I can help you with please feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,
Jennifer Petro
715-362-9497
tjpetro@newnorth.net

I asked her to come forward your testimony was impressive

do the vote of the members
I look forward to your signature
you again as the bill
signature

State Senator
Carol Roessler



Memorandum

SB 399

TO: CAROL / Jennifer
FROM: HUNTER
DATE: February 19, 2004

CK
JK

1. Rep. Honadel called, he wanted to thank you for your vote on stillborns

SB 399

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Kurtz, Hunter
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2004 2:21 PM
To: Halbur, Jennifer

T.U.

Rep. Honadel called, he wanted to CR for vote on stillborns

~~T.U. — CR~~



Cherie Klopp, Wisconsin State Director
The National Stillbirth Society, Inc.
Website: www.stillnomore.org
Email: stillnomore@cox.net
Telephone: 715/479-5310

To: Wisconsin State Legislature
From: Cherie Klopp, Wisconsin State Director
RE: DO PASS: Heavenly Angel Act SB399 (Stillbirth)

"Loss will always be a dimension of the human experience. Presently many babies in the United States are stillborn. It is part of human nature to remain ignorant and detached until one's own child is included in that statistic."¹

Exactly five years and one week ago I gave birth to my first child, a daughter, Taylor Nicole Klopp. It should've been a moment of great joy for my husband and me. Instead, the only cries heard coming from OB room #1 that morning belonged to my husband and me. Taylor, our beautiful baby girl, was born still. It was a devastating loss to my family; a loss we have learned to live with, but one we shall never get over.

Following her birth I was shocked to discover that no official document bearing her name would be issued. No birth certificate. No death certificate. Nothing. Years later I learned that had I known enough to ask, I could've requested a copy of her "Fetal Death Report", a document used to enter a vital statistic in Wisconsin's database, and thereafter destroyed. Some hospitals offer this cold report to parents because there is nothing else available to them. Others do not. By offering grieving parents a "Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth" you create uniformity for all. You also acknowledge a birth occurred - an event - even though the outcome - still vs. live - was vastly different. **The state should not deny Wisconsin mothers the issuance of a Certificate that acknowledges the event of birth simply because that child did not take a breath.** By not issuing a Certificate the state currently reinforces the perception of many newly bereaved women that they have failed and are unworthy of the title "mother".

I became a member of the National Stillbirth Society to promote awareness and I became the Wisconsin State Director to achieve a measure of peace for myself and other grieving parents of this state. Peace that will be brought by the recognition of the fact that we gave birth to much loved and dearly wanted children, children that will be forever mourned and remembered. The provision in this Bill for Certificates of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth to be retroactively available recognizes that the memory these forgotten parents hold in their hearts; no matter how long ago they suffered their loss is valid. Though not "persons" in the eyes of the law, they were a huge part of our lives.

The National Stillbirth Society's goals include educating the public about stillbirth. The first step in achieving this is to pass this bill in every state. **Ten states have already done so, almost without**

¹ Quietus a Story of Stillbirth, by Jean Gunderson, BSN and Donna Harris, Ed.D

exception on unanimous votes of their legislatures. (Kentucky and Iowa already issue a Certificate as a matter of policy.)

By helping us today to create that awareness, you are also helping us to promote awareness of the need for *federal* legislation to create a uniform post mortem protocol. Requiring standardized autopsy findings is the first step in making consistently collected data available for analysis in an effort to find the causes of stillbirths, **two-thirds of which are unexplained and happen to otherwise "normal" babies.**

With increased awareness we hope to also see increased federal funding to researchers like University of Wisconsin's own Dr. Richard Pauli, who for the past 21 years has been active in the field of stillbirth research.

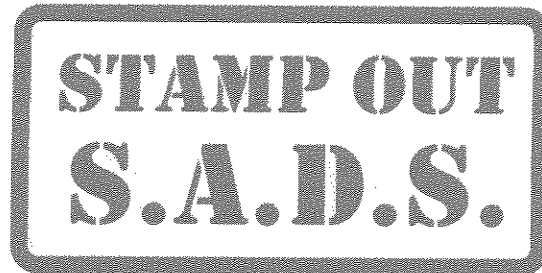
Please keep in mind that SIDS, also known as "crib death" was reduced by fifty percent, after the issue was brought to the public's attention. That's when enough empirical data was collected to overturn the long-held precept that babies should be put to sleep on their tummies. Once turned on their backs, death rates plummeted. Will stillbirth yield to so simple a solution? We won't know until we bring the issue and its devastating effect on Wisconsin women to public awareness. Researchers need to overcome a longtime legacy of secrecy and the sense of stillbirth as taboo. Taking this first step in passing this bill will help.

On behalf of all women who suffered a stillbirth - and the nearly 500 Wisconsin families who can be expected to suffer a stillbirth this year - and every year until stillbirth is eradicated - the Wisconsin mothers standing before you are asking this Committee to pass - on a unanimous vote - SB 399.

Attachments:

Why we Need a Certificate
Footprints Flyer

**The National Stillbirth Society
is fighting to**

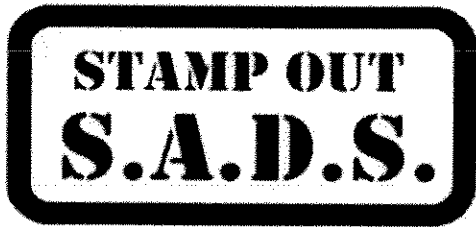


SUDDEN ANTENATAL DEATH SYNDROME

because all our children matter...

You can find us online at www.stillnomore.org

**PREPARED FOR
WISCONSIN SENATE COMMITTEE
ON HEALTH, CHILDREN, FAMILIES,
AGING AND LONG TERM CARE**



The National Stillbirth Society Inc.

"Because all our Children Matter"

TO: Members of the Wisconsin Senate Health Committee

PLEASE SUPPORT SB 399 – Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth

The written record of life usually begins with a Certificate of Birth and ends with a Certificate of Death, but not for all babies. Last year 26,000 babies were "stillborn", victims of Sudden Antenatal Death Syndrome. These babies, past 20 weeks and for the most part viable, often died mysteriously in their mothers' wombs for no discernable medical reason. For them there is no Certificate of Birth. They are issued Certificates of Fetal Death that record their passing, but not Certificates of Birth that acknowledge their delivery. Why Not? Should not two certificates be issued, one to mark their death, and the second to record their birth?

Birth is a process all mothers go through, regardless of the outcome. **Mother's of stillborn babies "give birth", they just don't give life.** The piece of paper we routinely refer to as a Certificate of Birth is actually titled, "Certificate of Live Birth". Doesn't this wording suggest on its face there is another kind of birth? The answer is an obvious "Yes". There's "live birth" and then there's "stillbirth". Both qualify as "births".

Stillbirth mothers deserve to have their motherhood recognized and validated by the issuance of a Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth, just as live birth mothers have their birth event recognized. They are mothers; that their baby died before its birth does not take that reality away from them. And stillbirth fathers are no less fathers because of their loss.

I am a father. My daughter Camille died in utero on the eve of her delivery at 41 weeks!

Arizona recognized the inequality of how stillbirths were being treated and in 2001 passed HB2416, mandating that the Bureau of Vital Statistics offer parents of all stillborn babies a "Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth". This certificate is in addition to - and separate from - the Certificate of Fetal Death **which is not affected in any way by the legislation**. One document recognizes the brave act of the mother who bore a "still" baby, while the other recognizes the death of that child prior to birth. (For a recap of current legislative activity in all states and specimen bills see <http://www.missingangelsbill.com>.)

Both past and current stillbirths in Arizona are eligible to be issued such a Certificate.

The issuance of a Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth does not impact in any way a woman's right to choose to terminate her pregnancy. Such certificates are issued only for deliveries following naturally occurring fetal deaths. Women who choose an elective termination of their pregnancy would neither be required to obtain a Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth, nor would they even be eligible for the reason elective terminations don't fall within the definition of a "stillbirth".

Also important to note is that this measure is not about taxes or financial relief or gain of any type either. Stillbirth parents are not seeking a dependent deduction, though one must ask whether it would not be appropriate to offer stillbirth parents the same tax benefit as live birth parents, since they bear the added cost of burial. But for the present, we want to focus solely on the societal issue of equal treatment for all birth mothers.

At present the mothers and fathers of stillborn babies suffer not only the loss of their baby but also the loss of societal acknowledgement that they are parents. Our country has historically been silent about stillbirth, preferring not to discuss this uncomfortable topic. Because of that silence there has been little done in the way of research or prevention. Stillbirth is a phenomenon that cuts across every strata of society; no one is immune. It strikes women as randomly as lightening bolts come to ground in a thunderstorm, making it all the more terrifying. **One in every 115 births is a stillbirth! Seventy babies a day are born still every day in America; five hundred every week.** Wisconsin mothers suffer almost 450 stillbirths every year.

The National Stillbirth Society, founded in 2001 by a stillbirth father, is sponsoring a nationwide drive to draw attention to the devastation caused to families worldwide by stillbirth. We will achieve this goal in part by getting state legislatures to enact legislation to acknowledge that mothers of stillborn babies are entitled to receive recognition for the child that they conceived and nurtured, but lost at birth. Hence, SB 399 has been introduced in the Senate on behalf of all Wisconsin women to accomplish this purpose.

When she signed the enabling legislation, Arizona's Governor Jane Dee Hull commented, "This is a step long overdue". She must have been right because legislators in every state where it has been enacted into law have done so on **unanimous votes!** That's because dead babies and bereaved parents are deemed to deserve more respect than they have been given up to now. It passed in Massachusetts – a liberal state – as easily as it did in Utah. This is truly a non-partisan issue, non-controversial issue.

The Certificate shown below issued by Indiana, one of the states to already issue Certificates of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth, meets all the requirements of the legislation.



EAST CHICAGO HEALTH DEPARTMENT
EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA

Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth

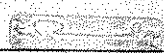
ACCORDING to the records of the EAST CHICAGO HEALTH DEPARTMENT

NAME SHAWN CHRISTOPHER MENSING JR. (Deceased)

Was delivered in EAST CHICAGO, Indiana, on JULY 16, 1990

To SHAWN CHRISTOPHER AND ANGELA MICHELLE MENSING

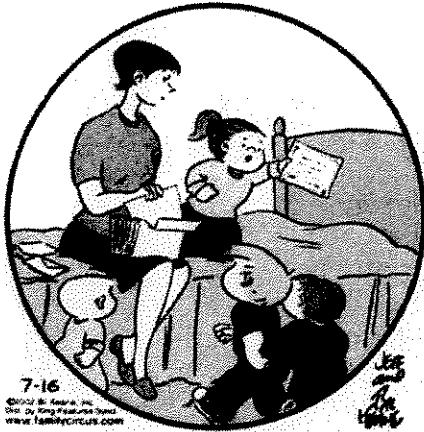
Local number 468

HEALTH OFFICER SIGNATURE  ISSUED JULY 1, 2002

THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT PROOF OF A LIVE BIRTH

Why We Need A Certificate of Still Birth

Haven't we all at one time been in a movie theater when the film broke? One moment we're caught up in the action and suddenly, there is no story on the screen. Time out while the projectionist rethreads the rest of the reel. If only life were like that. If only sudden interruptions could pick up where they left off. But they can't.



The birth of a dead baby is a break in the action. The story is over. We get to say hello and goodbye in the same breath. Instead of a bright future, all we're left with is shattered dreams of what might have been. When movie breaks we get our money back. In real life when the "film" breaks we're given a fetal death certificate. No baby to take home. No reward for the months of waiting. **No acknowledgement for having given birth.**

When we discover that what once lived within us is dead we want to run away. But we can't. First we must deliver our baby, just like mothers of live babies do. We must endure the pain. Just like mothers of live babies. And when it's over we hold our baby, just like mothers of live babies do. But then we have to give our baby back, and go home to an empty nursery.

"Mommy has birth certificates for all of us. They prove that we were born."

Contrary to what the pundits say, it is possible to fool Mother Nature. She doesn't know our baby died, and so she dutifully produces milk to nourish and protect that, which is no longer. She knows we gave birth. We know we gave birth. But the state says not. **Stillbirth mothers are not acknowledged as mothers by 46 states.**

"We will recognize your baby's death, but not its birth" is the message.

But how can that die which has not been born? How did it come into being? Did it ride a space ship to earth? Or did it arrive the way every other baby arrived, from the womb of a mother who conceived and delivered it?

Birth is a process that all mothers endure; live or "still" is the outcome of that process. If we recognize a live birth, why would the state not recognize a stillbirth? Is it to punish the mother whose baby is born dead? Is she not somehow worthy? Did she fail somehow? That's what she thinks. If we give a the mother of a live birth a "Certificate of Live Birth" why would we not give the mother of a stillborn baby a Certificate of Still Birth? That's the reality of what happened.

All mothers give birth; only the outcomes of those births differ.

To deny a woman a "Certificate of Still Birth", when she fails to produce a living child, is to say that she did not give birth, which is not true. To deny a woman recognition for this seminal event in her life is to deny the event occurred. To deny a woman recognition is to tell her she is a failure. It is an open wound upon her soul that will never heal unless and until her sacrifice is recognized, just as live birth mothers are recognized.

On August 9, 2001 in Phoenix, Arizona, Sharon Arnold, wife of NSS Founder Richard K. Olsen, along with Joanne Cacciatore-Garard, NSS National Director and founder of the MISS Foundation, were presented the first Certificates of Birth Resulting in Still Birth to be issued in the United States. The state of Arizona has led the way by acknowledging that these brave women gave birth and that their daughters, Camille and Cheyenne, though born still, did for one brief and glorious moment pass through this world. Your state should recognize you and your babies too, **because all our children matter.**

When they pass through they often
leave nothing behind but footprints.



Cheyenne Cacciatore July 27, 1994

Over 26,000 times a year in the United States a mother delivers a dead baby. For many, footprints are often the only memento they will have to show they once had a child who too briefly passed through this world. The lucky ones find out why their baby died. But for two-thirds of them no answer can be found as to why their otherwise normal baby was delivered dead. Not knowing a cause leaves these stillbirth mothers blaming themselves, and searching for answers.

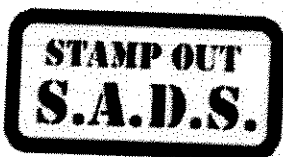
Far from being a rare event, stillbirth, or S.A.D.S., **Sudden Antenatal Death Syndrome**, is 10 times as prevalent as S.I.D.S. And yet one neither hears nor reads much about SADS. Until the National Stillbirth Society was founded in 2001 by a bereaved stillbirth father, there was no national organization of parents actively fighting to defeat SADS.

One reason there's so little SADS awareness is because the birth of a "still" baby, rather than being acknowledged in official records, has traditionally been ignored as if it didn't happen. The death of a stillborn baby is acknowledged by issuance of a Fetal Death Certificate, but not the birth. A woman who delivers a live baby receives a **Certificate of Live Birth**. But the mother who gives birth to a "still" baby isn't recognized in Wisconsin right now. As recently as three years ago, no state recognized stillbirth; **now 13 of them do and issue certificates.**

Birth is a process; live or "still" is just a result. Until Arizona passed this legislation in 2001 - the first state in the nation to do so - a mother of identical twins, who delivers one live and one "still", would receive a certificate of birth for the live baby only. Now she receives a **Certificate of Still Birth** for the delivery of her dead baby too, as should all stillborn mothers. That's the reality of what happened!

The Missing Angel Act does not impact or involve elective terminations of pregnancy. That is not our issue and never will be our issue. We're fighting solely for the rights of stillbirth mothers - and there are more than a million living in this country today - who carried a child, in some cases to full term, and having lost that child to stillbirth, were denied issuance of a certificate that says they tried. One that says they went through a birthing process.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY REP. MARK HONADEL



The National Stillbirth Society

"Because all our children matter."

Richard K. Olsen, Stillbirth Father & Executive Director www.stillnomore.org stillnomore@cox.net
Cherie Klopp, Stillbirth Mother and Wisconsin State Director, cherklop@yahoo.com