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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2011-12

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Education...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... CR
- Executive Sessions ... ES
- Public Hearings ... PH

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... Appt (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)

(ab = Assembly Bill)

(ar = Assembly Resolution)

(air = Assembly Joint Resolution)

(sb = Senate Bill)

(sr = Senate Resolution)

(sjr = Senate Joint Resolution)

Miscellaneous ... Misc

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Education

Senate Bill 237

Relating to: providing instruction in human growth and development.

By Senators Lazich, Galloway, Grothman and Leibham; cosponsored by Representatives Thiesfeldt, Bernier, Bies, Brooks, Craig, Jacque, Kleefisch, Knodl, Kooyenga, T. Larson, Litjens, Meyer, Nass, Nygren, A. Ott, Pridemore, Ripp, Spanbauer, Strachota, Stroebel, Wynn, Ziegelbauer and LeMahieu.

October 14, 2011

Referred to Committee on Education.

October 19, 2011

PUBLIC HEARING HELD

Present:

(7) Senators Olsen, Vukmir, Grothman, Darling,

Vinehout, C. Larson and T. Cullen.

Absent:

(0) None.

Excused:

(0) None.

Appearances For

- Mary Lazich Senator, 28th Senate District
- Syte Reitz, Madison
- Constance Nielsen, Madison Doctor, St. Ambrose Academy
- Mary Wagand, West Bend
- Barbara Sella, Madison WI Catholic Conference
- William Hann, Greendale
- David Stouvenel, De Soto
- Debra Lee, Mt Horeb
- Heidi Morgan, Cedarburg
- Jason Storms, Grafton
- Robert Bread, Grafton
- Anne Franczek, Milwaukee
- Hudson Whyhart, Milwaukee
- Oliver Burrows III, Schofield
- Juaine Appling, Madison WI Family Action
- Susan Armacost, Milwaukee Wisconsin Right to Life
- Mark Kinziger, Meno Falls
- Danielle Kinziger, Menominie Falls
- Pamela Charles, Beloit
- Nicole Charpentier, Oxford
- Michaela Bradham, Milwaukee

Appearances Against

- Tamara Grigsby Representative, 18th District
- Paula Cody, Brookfield Doctor
- Sabrina Gentile, Madison WI Council on Children & Families
- Heather Allen, Madison
- Lisa Subeck, Madison NARAL ProChoice Wisconsin
- Chris Taylor Representative, Room 306 W State Captiol
- Ani Djaferian, Wausau
- Tosha Wetterneck, Madison MD, Wisconsin Medical Society
- Kevin Bachhuber, Madison
- Steve Hughes, New Berlin The Young Progressives
- Heather Kleinberg, Madison
- Paul Crumb, Monona
- Kira Rygiewicz-Crumb, Monona
- Katie Cronmiller, Appleton
- Hannah Phillips, Appleton
- Nicole Angresano, Brown Deer
- Meghan Bensen, Madison Planned Parenthood
- Elizabeth Pritts, Middleton
- Stacy Harbough, Madison ACLU of Wisconsin
- Nicole Safar, Madison Planned Parenthood Advocates of WI
- Sofia Noguera, Madison
- Silvia Martinez, Madison
- Dianne Hesselbein, Middleton
- David Sandras

Appearances for Information Only

• Brett Fuller, Milwaukee — Milwaukee Public Schools

Registrations For

- Anne Massey, Barneveld
- Mark Erhaurt, Greendale
- Tom Rawling, Waunakee
- Laurie Rowley, Blue Mounds
- Bethany Berka, Radisson
- Mary Weigand, West Bend
- Kalyn Dyer, Baraboo
- MaryAnn Richard, Hazel Grove
- Tom Glavin, Rosholt
- Nancy Sondelski, Wausau
- James Dyer, Baraboo

- Ann Dyer, Baraboo
- Jennifer Fisher, LaCrosse
- Karen Ratzlaff, Appleton
- Kathy Palazzo, Merrill
- Carl Anderson, Menasha
- Laura Sedury, Marathon
- Mary Steeler, Marathon
- Robert Stoehl, Marathon
- Crystal Krueger, Merrill
- Spence Meinholz, Marshall
- Amy Meinholz, Marshall
- Rock Meinholz, Marshall
- A.P. Szeus, West Allis Doctor
- Karen Cournay, Merrill
- Mark Gabriel, Appleton
- Michelle Gabriel, Appleton
- Mary Litschauer, Merrill
- Mary Maug
- Michele Gillett, Verona
- Mike Gill, Neenah
- Mike Gill, Neenah
- Michael Riley, Cedarburg
- Mary Clement, Appleton
- Andy (not listed)
- Aage Larsen, Menomonie
- Jessica Woller, Merrill
- Brian Schaber, Greenfield
- Jeanne Horn, Oshkosh
- Dale Fredenberg, Cottage Grove
- Niki Shackleton, Baldwin
- Randall Sondelski, Wausau
- Edward Richard, Hazel Green
- James Foster, Bararboo
- Sharon Foster, Baraboo
- Chelsea Nickles, Appleton
- Marlene Glaye, Menasha
- Kerri Lorge, Neenah
- Stephen Gaenslen
- Janice Ribble, Menasha
- Bonnie Curreis, Campbellsport
- Victoria O'Hare, Racine
- Paula Oldenburg, Rhinelander
- Gary Curreil, Campbellsport
- Barbara Lucht, Neenah

- Geraldine Rafferty
- Randall Glaze, Brillion
- Judy Hankel
- Kurt Schoenick, Appleton
- James Lucht, Neenah
- Karen Regries
- BoB Reyant, Heartland
- Ray Long, Gleason
- Marlee Schreiber
- Ronadl Schreiber
- Ruth Moegenberg, West Bend
- Zac Burns, Appleton
- Roger Moegenberg, West Bend
- Mile Bisbach, Dodgeville
- Susan Bisbach, Dodgeville
- Cindy Wiker, Mineral Point
- Tom Wiker, Mineral Point
- Larry Schmidt, Milwaukee
- Robert Adashek, Cedarburg
- Ann Gairy, Waukesha
- Sharon Fredenberg, Cottage Grove
- Dan Shackleton, Baldwin
- Matt Trewhella
- Karin Lanser, Middleton
- Mary Kidney, West Bend
- Paul Lanser, Middleton
- Sarah Quinones, Madison
- Jeanne Marie Breurig, Middleton
- CL Hudson, Milwaukee
- Belanne Pibal, Plymouth
- David Morgan, Cedarburg
- Michele Leick, Adell
- Theresa Dalton, New Berlin
- Nicole Charpenter, Oxford
- Andre Jacque Representative, 2nd Assembly District
- Matt Sande, Cambridge Pro-Life Wisconsin
- John Dalton, New Berlin
- Nicole Charpentier, Oxford
- Danielle Kinziger, Menominee Falls
- Brandon VerVelde, Whitewater
- Tomas Reitz, Madison
- Mark Kinziger, Menominee Falls
- Stacy Horne, Monona

Registrations Against

- Sam Gehler, Madison
- Arthur Kohl-Riggs
- Will Gruber, Madison
- Colleen Hayes, Madison
- Alice Schneiderman, Madison
- CJ Terrell
- Betty Wolcott, Osseo
- Nicole Schulte, Madison
- Bonnie Marguilis, Madison Rabbi, Wisconsin Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
- Barb Holtz, Mukwonago
- Jacqueline Lewis, Eagle
- Jean Weedman, Mukwonago
- Christine Sinicki Rep, 20th Assembly District
- John Welter, Eau Claire
- David Clarser
- Bonnie Golden, Eau Claire
- Stephanie Nash, Madison Kennedy Heights Community Center
- Maya Cole, Madison Board of Education
- Katherine Baeten, Madison
- Kelvin Rodolfo, Viroqua
- Eleann Wolf, Eau Claire
- Kathleen Crittender, Viroqua
- Janet Jesberger, Sun Prairie
- Barb Gifford, Plover
- Jim Gifford, Plover
- Randy O'Connell, Milwaukee
- Jim Limbach, Stevens Point
- Amy Owen, Madison
- Karen Bassler, Madison
- Lindsay Wood David, Monona
- Ron Grasshoff, Prairie Du Sac
- Jane Less, McFarland
- Laura Priebe, Milwaukee
- Gordon Hintz Representative, 54th District
- Keith Nelson, Waunakee
- Lisa Conley, Oconomowoc
- Kathy Stella, Middleton
- Sharon Gaskill, Black Earth
- Lawrence Landwehr, Middleton
- Don Ferber, Madison
- Shahla Werner, Madison

- Thomas Thoresen, Fitchburg
- Betty Van Leuven, Madison
- Sheeva Marvdashti, Madison
- Jon Richards Representative, 19th District
- Alfonso Flores V, Madison
- Emily Wineche, Madison Wisconsin Women's Network
- Faustina Bohling, Middleton
- Jeanne Bissell, Madison
- JoCasta Zamarripa, Milwaukee Representative, 8th Assembly District
- Ann Behrmann MD, Madison
- Tony Gibart, Madison WI Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Kendra Wochos, Madison
- Mary Wichita, Mason
- Matt Krueger, Madison
- Allison Werner, Madison
- John Keckhaver, Madison Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- Tanya Cobb, Evansville
- Michael Welsh WI Academy of Family Physicians
- Michael Welsh WI Public Health Association
- Anne Murphy-Lon, Madison
- Robert Turner, Madison Representative, 61st Assembly District
- Jon Erpenbach Senator, 27th Senate District
- Josh Zepnick Representative, 9th Assembly District
- Samantha Leonard, Madison
- Jennifer Lewis, Fitchburg
- Santura Michels, Shorewodd
- Carrie Sherpelz, Madison
- Julie Worzala, Madison
- Jennifer Olenchek
- Tanya Atkinson, Shorewood
- Penny Bernard Schaber Representative, 57th Assembly District
- Thomas Kemble, Madison
- Sabrina Johnson, Appleton
- Genie Ogden, Madison
- Rebecca Kemble, Madison
- Joan Kemble, Madison
- Lena Taylor, Milwaukee Senator, 4th Senate District
- Kelda Helen Roys Representative, 81st Assembly District
- Janet Bewley Representative, 74th Assembly District

- Donna Seidel Representative, 85th Assembly District
- Dispesh Navsaria, Madison Doctor, Wisconsin Cahpater of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Analiese Eicher, Madison United Council of UW Students
- Diane Craney, Madison WEAC
- Andrea Kaminski, Madison League of Women Voters of WI
- Sara Finger, Madison Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health
- Ariel Larson, Madison
- Morgan Lange, Madison
- Kate Constalie, Madison
- Margo DeNuccio, Milwaukee
- Jay Botsford, Milwaukee
- Molly Swank, Milwaukee
- Laura Chern, Madison
- Amy Olejniczak, Madison
- Shirley Haidinger, Madison
- Diane Love, Madison
- Savannah Reising, Wausau
- Nora Cusack, Madison
- Grace Colas, Madison
- Karen Brown, Black Earth

Registrations for Information Only

• None.

October 19, 2011 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (7) Senators Olsen, Vukmir, Grothman, Darling, Vinehout, C. Larson and T. Cullen.

Absent: (0) None.

Excused: (0) None.

October 27, 2011 EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD

Present: (7) Senators Olsen, Vukmir, Grothman, Darling, Vinehout, C. Larson and T. Cullen.

Absent: (0) None. Excused: (0) None.

Moved by Senator T. Cullen, seconded by Senator C. Larson that **Senate Amendment 1** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (3) Senators Grothman, Darling and T. Cullen.

Noes: (4) Senators Olsen, Vukmir, Vinehout and C. Larson.

ADOPTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT 1 NOT RECOMMENDED, Ayes 3, Noes 4

Moved by Senator Vinehout, seconded by Senator C. Larson that **Senate Amendment 3** be recommended for introduction.

Ayes: (7) Senators Olsen, Vukmir, Grothman, Darling, Vinehout, C. Larson and T. Cullen.

Noes: (0) None.

INTRODUCTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT 3 RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7, Noes 0

Moved by Senator Vinehout, seconded by Senator C. Larson that **Senate Amendment 4** be recommended for introduction.

Ayes: (7) Senators Olsen, Vukmir, Grothman, Darling, Vinehout, C. Larson and T. Cullen.

Noes: (0) None.

INTRODUCTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT 4 RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7, Noes 0

Moved by Senator Vinehout, seconded by Senator C. Larson that **Senate Amendment 5** be recommended for introduction.

Ayes: (7) Senators Olsen, Vukmir, Grothman, Darling, Vinehout, C. Larson and T. Cullen.

Noes: (0) None.

INTRODUCTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT 5 RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7, Noes 0

Moved by Senator Vinehout, seconded by Senator C. Larson that **Senate Amendment 6** be recommended for introduction.

Ayes: (7) Senators Olsen, Vukmir, Grothman, Darling, Vinehout, C. Larson and T. Cullen.

Noes: (0) None.

INTRODUCTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT 6 RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7, Noes 0

Moved by Senator Vinehout, seconded by Senator C. Larson that Senate Amendment 7 be recommended for introduction.

> Ayes: (7) Senators Olsen, Vukmir, Grothman, Darling,

Vinehout, C. Larson and T. Cullen.

(0) None. Noes:

INTRODUCTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT 7 RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7, Noes 0

Moved by Senator C. Larson, seconded by Senator Vinehout that Senate Amendment 3 be recommended for adoption.

Ayes:

(3) Senators Vinehout, C. Larson and T. Cullen.

Noes: (4) Senators Olsen, Vukmir, Grothman and Darling.

ADOPTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT 3 NOT RECOMMENDED, Ayes 3, Noes 4

Moved by Senator Vinehout, seconded by Senator C. Larson that Senate Amendment 4 be recommended for adoption.

Ayes:

(3) Senators Vinehout, C. Larson and T. Cullen.

Noes: (4) Senators Olsen, Vukmir, Grothman and Darling.

ADOPTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT 4 NOT RECOMMENDED, Ayes 3, Noes 4

Moved by Senator Vinehout, seconded by Senator C. Larson that Senate Amendment 5 be recommended for adoption.

Ayes:

(3) Senators Vinehout, C. Larson and T. Cullen.

Noes:

(4) Senators Olsen, Vukmir, Grothman and Darling.

ADOPTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT 5 NOT RECOMMENDED, Ayes 3, Noes 4

Moved by Senator Vinehout, seconded by Senator C. Larson that Senate Amendment 6 be recommended for adoption.

Ayes:

(3) Senators Vinehout, C. Larson and T. Cullen.

Noes: (4) Senators Olsen, Vukmir, Grothman and Darling.

ADOPTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT 6 NOT RECOMMENDED, Ayes 3, Noes 4

Moved by Senator Vinehout, seconded by Senator Olsen that **Senate Amendment 7** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (6) Senators Olsen, Vukmir, Darling, Vinehout, C. Larson and T. Cullen.

Noes: (1) Senator Grothman.

ADOPTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT 7 RECOMMENDED, Ayes 6, Noes 1

Moved by Senator Grothman, seconded by Senator Vukmir that **Senate Bill 237** be recommended for passage as amended.

Ayes: (4) Senators Olsen, Vukmir, Grothman and Darling.

Noes: (3) Senators Vinehout, C. Larson and T. Cullen.

PASSAGE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 4, Noes 3

Sarah Archibald Committee Clerk

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☐ Motion Carried

☐ Motion Failed

Committee on Education Date: ___ Moved by: Vinch 9 h Seconded by: _ SB Clearinghouse Rule AB___ Appointment____ AJR_____ SJR___ Other SR A/S Amdt A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt __ A/S Sub Amdt to A/S Sub Amdt A/S Amdt to A/S Amdt to A/S Sub Amdt A/S Amdt Be recommended for: ☐ Indefinite Postponement ☐ Passage ☐ Adoption □ Confirmation □ Concurrence Rejection □ Tabling □ Nonconcurrence □ Introduction **Not Voting** Committee Member Absent Senator Luther Olsen, Chair Senator Leah Vukmir Senator Glenn Grothman **Senator Alberta Darling** Senator Kathleen Vinehout **Senator Chris Larson Senator Timothy Cullen**

Totals:

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Senator Leah	Vukmir			Ø		
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Committee Meeting Attendance Shreet

Committee on Education

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Committee Member	<i></i>	Present	Absent	Excused
Senator Luther Olsen, Chair				
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WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Dear Wisconsin State Senators,

As a father of a middle school and high school student as well as a member of the clergy involved in the community of Menomonie, I speak in favor of the 2011 Senate Bill 237.

Upon reading this Bill, I have found a number of favorable improvements that will benefit the students receiving human growth and development instruction. They are listed below in no particular order:

- 1. Recognizing the importance of "fostering partnerships between schools and parents" in providing this instruction to our students, instead of in the existing Law that gives this responsibility to the school.
- 2. Recognizing the importance of allowing each individual community to decide for their own students what is "age appropriate".
- 3. The recognition of the obvious fact that abstinence¹ is the only way of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.
 - a. As an editorial note: In teaching this to our confirmation students relating to the 6th commandment, "You shall not commit adultery", outside of the moral and religious implications are the natural implications that include the idea that what separates humans from animals in this area is our ability to make choices that reflect self-control, personal responsibility, and careful planning.
- 4. Changing the funding for this instruction so it is not limited to "evidence based teen pregnancy programs" only, but open to all programs.
 - a. The current Law is biased toward these particular programs presented by providers that represent this position.
 - b. And as a result, the current Law gives preferential treatment to those providers because of the ability of only those programs to receive state and federal funding, and to gain access to teaching our students.
 - c. The proposed Bill will also end this practice by preventing providers from directly teaching our students, placing instruction in the hands of people from our community.

In conclusion, the proposed Bill would provide communities greater access to funding and flexibility in designing human growth and development curriculum that reflects the values of the community while being honest about the facts regarding abstinence².

Sincerely,

Rev. Aage Larsen

1003 Ballentine Rd. Menomonie, WI 54751

¹ 70 percent of parents support abstinence for their teenage children: "National Survey of Adolescents and Their Parents: Attitudes and Opinions about Sex and Abstinence – Final Report", Abt Associates Inc., Cambridge, MA February 26, 2009, p. ix ² The alternative is promoting condom use which still exposes students to the risk of STD's. According to a NIH study, when used consistently and correctly, condoms only reduce the risk of gonorrhea in men while providing only an 85 percent reduction in HIV/AIDS transmission between men and women. However, this study found no evidence that condoms help to prevent six other STDs, including HPV, chlamydia, genital herpes, and syphilis: "Scientific Evidence on Condom Effectiveness for Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Prevention," National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, July 20, 2001.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



SB 237 - Repeal of Healthy Youth Act Testimony of Tosha Wetterneck, MD, MS, FACP October 17, 2011

Chairman Olson and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on SB 237, a bill that aims to repeal the Healthy Youth Act and that is a threat to the health of young people throughout Wisconsin.

I am here today as a practicing physician, as President-Elect of the Wisconsin Medical Society representing the Medical Society, as President of the Wisconsin Alliance for Womens' Health, and as a step-mom to a wonderful 7-year old girl, to oppose SB 237. The existing Healthy Youth Act is an incredibly important law that guides a comprehensive, evidence-based, "abstinence plus" approach to sex education. This approach is the only approach proven to help reduce the prevalence of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections among youth. These methods are associated with universally desired outcomes including:

- delayed initiation of sexual intercourse,
- increased parent-child communication about abstinence and contraception,
- reduced incidence of unprotected sex and
- increased use of contraception.

For all of us in Wisconsin-- parents, youth, teachers and health professionals alike--adolescent sexual risk behavior is a significant concern. Nearly half of all Wisconsin high schoolers are currently sexually active (45%) and only 61% used a condom during their last sexual encounter. From 2003 to 2007, the proportion of high schoolers who reported having sexual intercourse increased from 37% to 45%, while at the same time, condom use among these youth declined.

In many Wisconsin counties, the teen birth rate is higher than the U.S. average. In fact, approximately 6,000 Wisconsin teens will become pregnant this year and over 80% of these pregnancies will be unintended. Sexually transmitted infection rates in Wisconsin are also on the rise, and more than half of new sexually transmitted infections diagnosed each year occur among 15-24-year-olds. These devastating outcomes contribute to short and long-term social, economic, and public health challenges such as infant mortality and poor birth outcomes.

Educating and counseling youth about preventing unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections is foundational to sexual health care. As a practicing physician, I value the partnership that physicians, other healthcare clinicians and Wisconsin schools have been able to maintain in recent years to ensure this education is provided.

Unfortunately, SB 237 seeks to do away with this partnership by forbidding doctors, nurses, and other health professionals from teaming up with schools to provide medically accurate information to students. This is not only offensive to doctors, nurses and other health professionals throughout our state, it is irresponsible and hurtful to our youth. Current law goes to great length to ensure that students receive accurate and evidence-based information that is recognized as such by experts in the field of medicine and public health.

SB 237, however, makes it more difficult or impossible to do what doctors, nurses and health professionals know is best by:

- 1. Forbidding doctors and nurses from teaching health classes that include human development and sex education
- 2. Changing the definition of "medically accurate information" to one that would support the creation of curriculum that is truly not medically accurate
- 3. Removes any language about preventing teen pregnancy and STIs by contraceptives or barrier methods some of the most widely used and supported preventive measures
- 4. Supports failed abstinence-only until marriage curricula which has been proven ineffective by medical research

In addition, this proposal goes directly against what teens actually want and need to make healthier decisions. In a 2001 Survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation, 48% of teens said they wanted more information regarding sexual health from their doctor.

The information that youth receive when medically accurate, comprehensive sexual education is unavailable is often incomplete, inaccurate and very ineffective. In the 2009 Dane County Youth Survey, over 75% of students reported that they would be unable to tell if a partner had a STI or that they were unsure if they could. Another 16% did not believe that condoms protect against STIs and over one third of 9th graders reported not knowing where to go for sexual health concerns. This misinformation and lack of information leads to devastating sexual health outcomes including youth pregnancies, STIs and transmission of HIV.

On the other hand, due directly to the positive impacts of comprehensive, medically accurate sexual health education in our state, we have seen some very powerful trends in recent years. Due to our progress, Wisconsin has seen a decline in overall teen pregnancy again this year – something we can all celebrate. However, this gain has been the result of strategic, comprehensive educational efforts. It is important to note that this trend did not coincide with less youth having sex (the only goal of abstinence only until marriage approaches), but with more youth taking preventive health action to reduce their risk of pregnancy (one goal of more comprehensive prevention approaches). This decline would not have been possible without the presence of comprehensive, medically accurate educational initiatives.

While this decline in overall teen pregnancy rate is cause for celebration, it also masks other trends moving disturbingly in the wrong direction. Rates of sexually transmitted infections among Wisconsin teens have been increasing. The combined rate of four STIs (chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis and genital herpes) among teens aged 15-19 increased 53% between 1997 and 2007. These trends have moved in the wrong direction during the same period that federal policy strongly promoted "abstinence-only" approaches.

Given that 89% of pregnant teens are enrolled in the Medicaid program, there are significant costs to Wisconsin taxpayers as a result of teen pregnancies. On average, Wisconsin spends approximately \$5,014 per person for maternity related costs for births. Overall, approximately \$27 million (AF) was spent on teen pregnancies alone in the Medicaid program, exclusive of the cost of medical care and other programs for infants. Vi

In addition, in one year alone Wisconsin spends approximately \$117 million dollars on the direct medical costs of sexually transmitted diseases among youth aged 15-24. This excludes long term costs including infertility, increased rates of cancer, and other consequences of sexually transmitted infections, which are tremendous.

As a physician, a mom, and a Wisconsin resident invested in the future of our state, I simply cannot support the social and economic devastation a repeal of this important legislation would cause. I whole-heartedly oppose proposal to repeal the Healthy Youth Act.

I would be happy to address any questions the committee may have.

¹ Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Bureau of Health Information and Policy. Wisconsin Youth Sexual Behavior and Outcomes, 1993-2007—Update (P-45706-07b). February 2009.

ⁱⁱ Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin Web site. Published 2011. Accessed September 27, 2011.

http://www.ppawi.org/home/issues/current-issues-legislation/healthy-youth-act.cmsx

ⁱⁱⁱ Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. *Births to Teens in Wisconsin*, 2009 (P-45365-09). May 2011.

^{iv} Weinstock H, Berman S, Cates W. Sexually transmitted diseases among American youth: incidence and prevalence estimates, 2000. Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health 2004;36(1):6-10.

^v Dane County Youth Survey. Published 2009. Accessed October 17, 2011.

http://pdf.countyofdane.com/humanservices/youth/assessment_surveys/2009/youth_2009_high_school.pdf

vi Wisconsin Medicaid Program, Share of Teen Births.

vii Bennett SE, Assefi NP. School-based teenage pregnancy prevention programs: a systematic review of randomized controlled trials. *Journal of Adolescent Health* 2005;36:72-81.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





To: Senate Education Committee

From: Sara Finger, Executive Director

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB 237

Date: October 18, 2011

As Wisconsin's Women's Health Policy leader, I'm submitting this testimony on behalf of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH) and for the women and girls of Wisconsin. Our organization is a broad and diverse coalition that works to raise the status of Wisconsin women's health. Our supporters include those from the faith community, health care community, public health community, and business community.

We are weighing in to oppose Senate Bill 237 for three key reasons: 1) it's bad for Wisconsin youth, 2) it's bad for the health of our communities and 3) it's bad for our state's economy.

In Wisconsin and across the nation, we have a public health crisis on our hands.

- Approximately one third of young women become pregnant at least once before they reach the age of 20

 with approximately 750,000 teen pregnancies each year in which over 80% are unintended.
- 1 in 4 teens nationwide has at least one STD, with Wisconsin noted for having the 23rd highest Chlamydia rate in the country with Milwaukee having the 2nd highest rate in the county.
- Almost 20% of the new HIV infections in Wisconsin are among teen and young adults age 15-24.

These horrible statistics translate to:

- low rates of prenatal care
- high rates of low birth weight babies
- high rates of infant mortality
- high rates of infertility

- high rates of childhood poverty
- high rates of health outcomes disparities
- low rates of high school completion
- · high costs to Medicaid

During what is supposed to be a special session on jobs, we shouldn't be fast tracking a dangerous bill that will escalate these negative statistics and therefore increase taxpayers costs.

SB 237 is dangerous in many ways as it:

- Undermines and reduces the role of teachers and administrators in curriculum decisions;
- Dismisses medically supported research and ignoring teen pregnancy prevention methods;
- Leaves parents in the dark but not notifying them if sex education is not being taught in their child's classroom;
- Forces Wisconsin to apply for ineffective abstinence-only programs;
- Allows discrimination among LGBTQ youth; and
- Bans doctors and nurses from teaching health classes.

It's important to remind everyone of the outpouring of organizational and community support the Healthy Youth Act garnered. The American Association of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, among many other leading health organizations support comprehensive sex education programs. And 87% of Wisconsin voters support requiring comprehensive sex education that includes information about both abstinence and contraception.

Since we should all share a common goal of reducing teen pregnancy rates, reducing rates of STDs, reducing the need for abortion, we should all be embracing the Healthy Youth Act for as an evidenced based method that actually improves, not compromises health outcomes for our youth.

Please vote NO on SB 237 and protect Wisconsin's Healthy Youth Act to protect Wisconsin's health and economy.