2003-04 SESSION COMMITTEE HEARING RECORDS

Committee Name:

Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care (SC-HCFALTC)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- > 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
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- > 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

- Appointments ... Appt
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- > Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule
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- > Committee Hearings ... CH
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- Executive Sessions ... ES
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- ➤ <u>Hearing Records</u> ... HR
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- Miscellaneous ... Misc
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- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP
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To: Selected individuals

From: Chris Taylor, Legislative Director

Date: August 5, 2003

RE: SB 186/AB 383: Repeal of the Family Planning Waiver & legal remedies

JCRAR's Suspension of DHFS' Emergency Rules

The family planning waiver is specifically authorized by statute. Wis. Stat. Sec. 49.45 (24r) specifically directs DHFS to request a waiver from the federal government for permission to operate a family planning demonstration project so that women ages 15 to 44 can receive family planning services if their family income does not exceed 185% of the poverty line. The statute also directs the DHFS to administer the program if it is granted.

As a result, the DHFS promulgated emergency rules to begin administering the waiver after it was approved by Secretary Thompson last summer.

On April 16, 2003, Senator Lazich and Representative Seratti wrote to the JCRAR cochairs, Senator Leibham and Representative Grothman, expressing alarm that teenagers were included in this program, and requesting a hearing.

On April 30, 2003, the JCRAR held a hearing on the emergency rules, though the focus of the hearing was on the inclusion of young women ages 15-17 in the program, as authorized by statute. On this day, JCRAR moved to suspend the Emergency Rules of the DHFS in administering the waiver program. The justification for such a suspension from committee members is that they did not like the inclusion of 15-17 year old women in the program. As mentioned above, the age eligibility requirements, however, are set forth in statute and were merely recited in the emergency rules. In the Notice of suspension of an administrative rule, JCRAR stated that the grounds for the suspension was Wis. Stat. 227.19 (4) (d) 1. to 3.

On May 27, 2003, JCRAR voted to introduce LRB 2654 in the Senate and LRB 2653 in the Assembly.

On June 3, 2003, Senate Bill 186 was introduced to amend the original statute authorizing the program, Wis. Stat. Sec. 49.45 (24r), to include women ages 18-44 instead of 15 through 44. The Assembly companion bill, AB 383, was introduced on June 5, 2003. The introduction of both bills seem to violate the statutes 30 day requirement for bill introduction after emergency rule suspension.

Both bills were referred to the Health committee in each house. According to Sec. 227.26 (2)(h), if the committee to which a bill is referred makes no report within 30 days after referral, the bill shall be considered reported without recommendation. The Senate Health committee reported the bill without recommendation on July 16, 2003, and the Assembly Health committee reported the rule without recommendation on July 15, 2003. According to the clerk, the bills will scheduled for floor debate and vote on September 23rd.

Wis. Stat. Sec. 227.26 (2) (f) requires that "if any rule is suspended, the committee shall, within 30 days after the suspension, introduce in each house of the legislature, for consideration at any regular session, a bill to repeal the suspended rule."

<u>Issues</u>

1. Did JCRAR have grounds for suspending the entire rule?

The age requirements of women being 15-44 are set forth in the original statute authorizing the program. JCRAR clearly did not want to include 15-17 year olds in this program. Co-Chair of the JCRAR, Representative Glenn Grothman, stated this repeatedly during the hearing and the executive which was held on the bill. The grounds which JCRAR alleged required suspending the rule were absence of statutory authority; 2. An emergency relating to public health, safety or welfare, and 3. A failure to comply with legislative intent. With regard to the age requirement, did they meet this burden?

2. Did the JCRAR comply with the requirement that a bill for the repeal of the emergency rule be introduced within thirty (30) days of suspension?

Both of these bills were introduced more than thirty days after the April 30 suspension of the emergency rules, though the committee voted to introduce the bills within thirty days.

3. Did JCRAR comply with the statutory requirement that the bill repeal the suspended rule?

The bills make no reference of any repeal of the suspended rule, and only deal with amending 15-17 year old women from the program. The legislative analysis indicates that the bill is introduced pursuant to 227.26 (2)(f). I actually don't think there is any dispute that JCRAR is proceeding under Sec. 227.26 (2)(f).

Rep. Grothman, co-chair of JCRAR, has stated publicly that the goal in suspending the emergency rules was to shut the program down. Hence, he was trying to nullify a statute which authorizes the program through the administrative rules process.

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Rose, Laura

ent: To: Wednesday, August 06, 2003 10:31 AM

Subject:

Asbjornson, Karen History of Senate Bill 186



History of Senate Bill 186.url...

i Karen,

Since this bill was introduced by JCRAR, if the committee that has the bill doesn't act on the bill within 30 days, the bill is considered reported out of the committee without recommendation. See s. 227.19(6)(b). It happens automatically if the committee doesn't act.

Please let me know if you have any other questions. Did you get my comments on the EMT rule modifications? I left the file with Sara yesterday.

THanks

Laura

http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/SB186hst.html

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SENATE BILL 186

An Act to amend 49.45 (24r) of the statutes; relating to: a Medical Assistance family planning demonstration project minimum age eligibility limitation change. (FE) 2003

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06-03-03. S	3.	Introduced by joint committee for review of ADMINISTRATIVE RULES.
06-03-03. S	3.	Read first time and referred to committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long
		Term Care
06-03-03. S	S.	Joint committee for Review of Administrative Rules report received pursuant to s.
		227.26(2)(g), Wisconsin Statutes.
07-16-03. S	3.	Report without recommendation pursuant to s. 227.26 (2)(h), Wisconsin Statutes 276
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SAVE THE FAMILY PLANNING WAIVER

Senate Bill 186 and Assembly Bill 383 will gut this important program

In the past, low-income women who were not pregnant or did not have children were ineligible for health care services under Medicaid or BadgerCare. Effective January 1, 2003, Wisconsin received a Waiver from the federal government to expand access to family planning health care services. Under this Waiver, low-income Wisconsin women of child-bearing age can receive family planning services, such as breast and cervical cancer screens, contraceptive counseling and services and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.

AB 383 & SB 186 threaten the entire Waiver program

AB 383 & SB 186 will prohibit young women ages 15-17 from participating in the Family Planning Waiver program and obtaining preventative health care services such as pap smears, treatment for sexual transmitted infections and birth control. These bills are being advanced by anti-birth control legislators whose stated goal is to get rid of the entire waiver program. They know that if they knock young women out of the program, the state is out of compliance with its commitment under the Waiver to prevent teen pregnancy. The continuation of the entire program would be placed in jeopardy. The women in most need of these vital health care services will suffer.

AB 383 and SB 186 are being advanced without public debate

In a highly unusual and legally questionable move, the Joint Committee for the Review of Administrative Rules (JCRAR) is advancing both bills in an expedited manner not authorized by state law. Further, these bills passed out of legislative committees in both houses without giving the public an opportunity to be heard and without a committee vote! Both of these bills could be scheduled for a vote in each house at any time. The public deserves to be heard on these issues, and the rules must be followed to ensure public trust and confidence in our elected officials. Like the public, legislative members of JCRAR should have to abide by the law and afford the public an opportunity for public comment and debate.

AB 383/SB 186 Compromise the Health of Wisconsin Women

By expanding family planning services to low income women of child bearing age, the Waiver assures access to basic preventative and diagnostic health services and promotes maternal and child health. The Centers for Disease Control listed family planning as one of the top ten public health achievements of the 20th century. Publicly supported family planning programs reduce the number of unintended pregnancy and the transmission of sexually transmitted infections, and promote early detection of cancer. It is estimated that 47,000 women will receive family planning services under the Waiver, women who would not have these services otherwise.

This information was compiled by Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin's Public Affairs department. For more information about legislation related to reproductive health and choice, or to join our action alert contact PPWI at PO Box 2566 • Madison, WI 53701 • (608) 256-7549 or toll-free (800) 261-2464 • www.ppwi.org 8/14/2003

Fact Sheet

AB 383/SB 186 Will Cost Taxpayers Money

Expanding family planning services to low-income women will save Wisconsin taxpayers millions of dollars. The Federal government covers 90% of the costs of the Waiver program. According to the Department of Health and Family Services' Fiscal Estimate, by preventing unintended pregnancies over a five-year period, the Waiver will attract \$7.6 million federal dollars each year into our state and save taxpayers approximately \$9 million in Medicaid costs.

According to a study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, each dollar spent on family planning services saves an estimated \$3.00 that would otherwise be spent in medical care and other social services to women who by law would be eligible for such services if they became pregnant.

The Department of Health and Family Services estimates that 85% of teen pregnancies in our state are paid for by Wisconsin taxpayers. Pregnant teens are not only eligible for Medicaid, but their children are as well. By reducing the incidence of teen pregnancy, the Waiver reduces Medicaid costs which the taxpayers are financing.

AB 383/SB 186 Will Decrease the Incidence of Abortion and Teen Pregnancy

By giving more women access to family planning services, the Waiver decreases the number of unintended pregnancies and abortion. Wisconsin's family planning program averts 24,200 unintended pregnancies and 12,100 abortions each year. In 2000, there were 7,081 teen births in Wisconsin. The Waiver is estimated to reduce teen pregnancies in our state by 15%. If young women are excluded from this program, that reduction in teen pregnancy will not be realized.

The Waiver has Bi-Partisan Support

In 1997, the Waiver was approved by the Legislature on a bi-partisan vote. Assembly Speaker John Gard (R-Peshtigo) and Senate Leader Mary Panzer (R-West Bend) supported the program, which was signed into law by then Governor Tommy Thompson. Last year, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson announced final approval of the Waiver for Wisconsin.

selection, a dental provider would be assigned to the recipient. In addition, specify that DHFS would contract with an entity to do the following: (a) accept a capitation payment from DHFS for each recipient who is enrolled in the pilot project; (b) enroll dentists to be participating dentists under the pilot project; and (c) coordinate with county departments to provide outreach and education to recipients and persons who are eligible to be recipients; and (d) pay all allowable dental charges on a fee-for-service basis to participating dentists on behalf of recipients in the pilot counties for dental services received by those recipients.

Veto by Governor [C-4]: Delete the beginning and ending dates of the pilot project. Consequently, there would be no statutory date by which DHFS would be required to establish or end the pilot project.

[Act 27 Section: 1942m]

[Act 27 Vetoed Section: 1942m]

42. TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Chg. to Base
GPR \$63,000

Joint Finance/Legislature: Provide \$63,000 GPR in 1997-98 for

DHFS to reimburse providers of transportation services for repayments
of medical assistance overpayments that were made between January 1, 1992, and May 14, 1993, in situations where: (a) the provider's private pay rate was less than the usual medical assistance rate; and (b) the provider's private pay billings for a year were less than 10% of total billings for that year.

(43.) MA FAMILY PLANNING

Joint Finance: Direct DHFS to develop a proposal to expand access to family planning services currently covered under the MA program to all women between the ages of 15 and 44 who live in

Chg. to Base
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families with income below 185% of the federal poverty level. Direct DHFS to seek approval, by January 1, 1998, of a demonstration waiver from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Care Financing Administration to implement this proposal. Specify that, if DHFS receives approval of the demonstration proposal, DHFS would submit legislation authorizing the implementation of this proposal to the appropriate standing committee of the Senate and Assembly.

Senate/Legislature: Modify provision by: (a) providing \$460,200 GPR and \$4,141,800 FED in 1998-99 to support the costs of implementing the project; (b) deleting the provision that requires DHFS to seek approval of the demonstration waiver by January 1, 1998; (c) deleting the provision that would require DHFS to submit legislation authorizing the implementation of the proposal to the appropriate standing committee of the Senate and Assembly; and (d) directing DHFS to begin conducting the project no later than July 1, 1998, or the date on which the waiver is granted,

Representative Ourada

HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Medical Assistance Family Planning

Motion:

Move to direct DHFS to develop a proposal to expand access to family planning services currently covered under the MA program to all women between the ages of 15 and 44 who live in families with income under 185% of the federal poverty level. Direct DHFS to seek approval, by January 1, 1998, of a demonstration waiver from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Health Care Financing Administration to implement this proposal.

Specify that, if DHFS receives approval of the demonstration waiver proposal, DHFS will submit legislation authorizing the implementation of this proposal to the appropriate standing committee of the Senate and General Assembly.

Note:

The State of Michigan developed a demonstration project which extends MA coverage for family planning services to all women of childbearing age living in families with income up to 185% of the federal poverty level. In addition, under this demonstration project, Michigan expanded its current MA family planning benefit. Under this motion, DHFS would develop a similar demonstration project, except the Wisconsin project would only include family planning services which are currently covered by the Wisconsin MA program.

The demonstration project would be designed to test the effectiveness of innovative intervention strategies aimed at reducing the number of unintended pregnancies and improving birth outcomes among low-income women.

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so that the public can have the opportunity to express support for EC in the ER. access to the safe, effective methods of pregnancy prevention that they deserve. We would like to request a committee hearing on this important issue the physical and psychological trauma incurred by the victims. This legislation would require hospitals to provide sexual assault victims immediate Decreasing the frequency of unintended pregnancies resulting from sexual assault will not only reduce the occurance of abortion but will also lessen hospitals providing emergency care to inform sexual assault victims about FDA approved emergency contraception and provide it upon request. We strongly support Assembly Bill 170/Senate Bill 99 dealing with emergency contraception in the emergency room. The bill would require

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Coalition to Save the Family Planning Waiver

....working to preserve access to preventative health care

Coalition Members

American Civil Liberties Union

Family Planning Health Services, Inc.

First Choice Women's Health Center

Health Care Clinic, Superior

Langlade County Health Dept.

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin

Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (ELCA)

Milwaukee Adolescent Health Program

Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations

National Council of Jewish Women - Milwaukee

NARAL Pro-Choice Wisconsin

NEWCAP, Inc.

9to5, National Association of Working Women

Options in Reproductive Health Care

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Women's Network-Reproductive Rights Task Force

UW Madison and Milwaukee VOX

Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care

Wisconsin Association of School Nurses

Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

Wisconsin Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association

Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association

Wisconsin Nurses Association

Vicki Burke

Diane Fox

Tawni Kind

Tom Rauk

Suzette Renwick

August 27, 2003

HAND-DELIVERED

The Honorable John Gard P.O. Box 8952 Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Gard:

On behalf of the 25,000 women currently enrolled in the Family Planning Waiver program in Wisconsin to date, the Coalition to Save the Family Planning Waiver is appealing to you, as the Assembly Speaker and an early supporter of this program, to stop the efforts to repeal the Family Planning Waiver as proposed in SB 186 and AB 383. The Coalition to Save the Family Planning Waiver is made up of organizations, concerned parents and individuals from across the state to preserve this crucial program. SB 186 and AB 383, which were not properly introduced, should not be scheduled for an Assembly vote. At the very least, these bills should be referred back to the health committees for a public hearing.

The Department of Health and Family Services has testified about their concern that efforts to amend young women out of the Family Planning Waiver could result in the loss of the entire program. Despite an estimated potential loss of \$38 million in federal funds over the five year span of the program and responses from over 5,000 Wisconsin residents to preserve the Family Planning Waiver, both bills were advanced out of the health committees in July without a public hearing or a committee vote. Like you, we value the role of public input in the legislative process and consequently have serious concerns about the legality of the fast-tracking of these bills. The Chief Clerk's office has informed us that both bills will be recommended for a final floor vote on September 23.

The Family Planning Waiver was implemented in January, 2003 to extend family planning services to low-income women ages 15-44 who are at high risk of unintended pregnancy because they do not have health coverage through Medicaid or Badgercare. The goal of the Family Planning Waiver is to reduce unintended pregnancy, the transmission of sexually transmitted infections and to promote the early detection of cancer.

The Family Planning Waiver will attract \$38 million in federal funds over the five year project to Wisconsin, saving the state at least \$17 million in GPR dollars and \$8.9 million in Medicaid costs associated with unintended pregnancies. The federal government pays 90% of the costs of this important

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Have scheduled

Coalition to Save the Family Planning Waiver

....working to preserve access to preventative health care

Press Release

Embargoed for August 27, 2003 at 10:30 a.m.

Media contacts:

Lon Newman 715-675-9858 Tanya Atkinson

414-831-8880, ext. 100

Charity Eleson 608-284-0580 ext. 302

STATEWIDE COALITION FORMED TO SAVE FAMILY PLANNING WAIVER
At Capitol press conference organizations call on leadership to halt attack on Family Planning Waiver

Madison, WI—Over twenty Wisconsin based organizations, concerned parents and individuals have announced the formal creation of a statewide coalition dedicated to saving the Family Planning Waiver that recently came under attack by legislators who oppose family planning services. Opponents of the Family Planning Waiver recently stepped up their efforts to repeal the federally funded program by advancing AB 383 and its companion bill, SB 186, to the Assembly and Senate for a final vote expected to take place on September 23. Despite an estimated loss of \$38 million in federal funds over the five year span of the program if the Waiver were repealed and pleas from over 5,000 Wisconsin residents to preserve the Family Planning Waiver, both bills were advanced out of committee without a public hearing or a committee vote.

"The public deserves to be heard on these issues, and the rules should be followed to ensure public trust and confidence in our elected officials," said Rev. Sue Moline Larson, director of the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin. "It is especially important that the legislative process be fair because so many low-income women and women of color are under-represented in decisions that affect their health and their futures."

The Family Planning Waiver program, recently approved by Secretary Tommy Thompson, attracts additional federal funding to extend family planning services to low-income women who are at high risk of unintended pregnancy because they do not have health coverage through Medicaid or BadgerCare. The federal government pays 90% of the costs for the program. The goal of the Family Planning Waiver is to reduce unintended pregnancy, the transmission of sexually transmitted infections and to promote early detection of cancer among low-income women ages 15-44.

"The Family Planning Waiver is important to the health of Wisconsin women," stated Pat Borchert, President of the Wisconsin Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association. "Over 25,000 women who did not have access to preventative health services are currently enrolled in this vital program. The Family Planning Waiver reduces unintended pregnancy, the transmission of sexually transmitted infections and saves lives through the early detection of cancer and prevention."

According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI), Wisconsin's family planning programs serve approximately 150,000 individuals, preventing 24,200 unintended pregnancies and 12,100 abortions each year in the state of Wisconsin. The Department of Health and Family Services estimates that 85% of teen pregnancies in our state are paid for by Wisconsin taxpayers. In 2000, there were 7,081 teen births in Wisconsin. The Family Planning Waiver is estimated to reduce teen pregnancies in Wisconsin by 15%.

"In this era of budget deficits, we should be looking to more programs like the Family Planning Waiver because they attract federal funds to our state to enhance public health and save taxpayers money," stated Charity Eleson, associate director of programs and advocacy for the Wisconsin Coalition on Children and Families.

The Family Planning Waiver program attracts \$38 million in federal funds to Wisconsin, saves the state \$17 million GPR dollars and \$8.9 million in Medicaid costs associated with unintended pregnancies during the five year term of the project. Prior to the implementation of the Family Planning Waiver program, low-income women in Wisconsin had to be pregnant or have children to qualify for preventative reproductive health care services and birth control. A letter asking legislative leaders to halt the attack on the Family Planning Waiver was advanced by coalition members immediately following today's press conference.

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Rothwell, Julie

Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 10:03 AM

To: Halbur, Jennifer

Subject: FW: Pro-Life Wisconsin Press Release: Free Birth Control to Minor Girls is Harmful, Undermines

Parents

CR...Inbox

----Original Message----

From: Pro-Life Wisconsin [mailto:info@prolifewisconsin.org]

Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2003 9:39 AM

To: info@prolifewisconsin.org

Subject: Pro-Life Wisconsin Press Release: Free Birth Control to Minor Girls is Harmful, Undermines Parents

PRO-LIFE WISCONSIN State Office, P.O. Box 221 Brookfield, WI 53008 www.prolifewisconsin.org info@prolifewisconsin.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 27, 2003

Contact: Peggy Hamill, State Director

Matt Sande, Director of Legislative Affairs (262) 796-1111 or (262) 352-0890

Free Birth Control to Minor Girls is Harmful, Undermines Parents

Pro-Life Wisconsin supports legislation that would prevent 15, 16 and 17-year old girls from receiving free, taxpayer-funded birth control without their parents' consent under a new state/federal family planning program.

Legislation introduced by a joint committee co-chaired by Representative Glenn Grothman (R-West Bend) and Senator Joe Leibham (R-Sheboygan) would modify the *Medicaid Family Planning Demonstration Project*, which currently allows minor girls to receive birth control and other "family planning" services for free without the knowledge or consent of a parent. Assembly Bill (AB) 383 and Senate Bill (SB) 186 would change the minimum age requirement, from 15 to 18 years, for eligibility for the *Family Planning Project*.

"Providing birth control to 15 year-olds behind parents' backs and making taxpayers pay for it is irresponsible public policy," said Matt Sande, Pro-Life Wisconsin's director of legislative affairs. "Not only is the *Family Planning Project* offensive to parents - who are naturally concerned about the sexual health of their children - but it contributes to an increase in sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) by encouraging sexual promiscuity."

After twenty years crusading for safe sex by dispensing condoms and the Pill to adolescent patients, Dr. Meg Meeker, M.D., as described in her book Epidemic - How Teen Sex is Killing

Our Kids, realized she was horribly mistaken when her teen patients began marching in with dangerous STDs. She now counsels teens and parents on the *medical* importance of waiting to have sex.

"The Pill offers no protection against STDs including AIDS," said Sande. "With over thirty viruses compared to only two in 1960, STDs among our teens have become a full blown epidemic. Every day, 8,000 teens become infected with an STD. It's time the state reassess the so-called benefits of "family planning" for Wisconsin's children."

The Family Planning Project also does not work to reduce underage pregnancies and abortion. The author of a 14-year study on the impact of family planning on teenage sexual activity in the United Kingdom concluded, "the overall effect of expanding family planning services to under-16's has been to increase pregnancy and abortion." The study was published in the Journal of Health Economics in March 2002.

"This legislation is simply common sense," said Sande. "Protecting young girls from the devastating physical and emotional effects of STD's, pregnancy and abortion, as well as ensuring the rights of parents to be involved in such important issues in their daughters' lives is good public policy."

Pro-Life Wisconsin urges the Legislature to pass AB 383 and SB186 - bills that are clearly in the best interests of parents and their kids.

Halbar, Jennifer

From:

Seaguist, Sara

Sent:

Friday, August 29, 2003 11:07 AM

To:

Halbur, Jennifer; Halbur, Jennifer

Subject:

New Forward Contact Ownership and Assignment

Constituent: Adam Bindert (173303)

315 Polk St Apt 8

North Fond Du Lac, WI 54937-1259

Owner:

Halbur, Jennifer

Assigned:

Halbur, Jennifer

Summary:

family planning waiver

Issue:

Position:

Status:

Pending

Contact Type: Email

Description: ----Original Message-----

From: abindert@yahoo.com [mailto:abindert@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2003 4:42 PM

To: Sen.Roessler@legis.state.wi.us

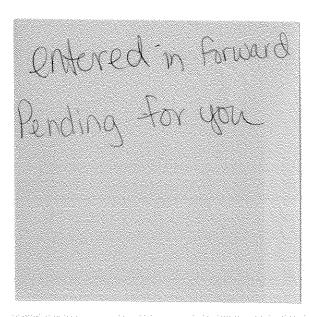
Subject: Save the Family Planning Waiver!

August 28, 2003

Dear Sen. Carol Roessler,

On behalf of the 25,000 women currently enrolled in the Family Planning Waiver program in Wisconsin to date, I urge you to support the Waiver as it is currently implemented and to oppose the effort to repeal the Family Planning Waiver as proposed in SB 186 and AB 383. The Department of Health and Family Services has testified about their concern that efforts to amend young women out of the program could result in the loss of the entire Family Planning Waiver. Despite an estimated potential loss of \$38 million in federal funds over the five year span of the program and responses from over 5,000 Wisconsin residents to preserve the Family Planning Waiver, both bills were advanced out of committee in July without a public hearing or a committee vote. Like you, I value the role of public input in the legislative process and consequently have serious concerns about the legality of the fast-tracking of these bills.

The Family Planning Waiver was implemented January of 2003 to extend family planning services to low-income women aged 15-44 who are at high risk of unintended pregnancy because they do not have health coverage through Medicaid or BadgerCare. The goal of the Family Planning Waiver is to reduce unintended and teen pregnancy, the transmission of sexually transmitted infections and to promote the early detection of cancer among low-income women who have no health care coverage. Prior to the implementation of the Family Planning Waiver, low-income women in Wisconsin had to be pregnant or have children to qualify for preventative reproductive health care services and birth control.



The Family Planning Waiver will attract \$38 million in federal funds over the five year project to Wisconsin, saving the state at least \$17 million GPR dollars over five years and \$8.9 million in Medicaid costs associated with unintended pregnancies. The federal government pays 90% of the costs of this important program. According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, Wisconsin family planning programs serve approximately 150,000 individuals, preventing 24,200 unintended pregnancies and 12,100 abortions each year in the state of Wisconsin. In 2000, there were 7,081 teen births in Wisconsin and the Department of Health and Family Services estimates that 85% of teen pregnancies are paid for by Wisconsin taxpayers. The Family Planning Waiver is expected to reduce teen pregnancies in Wisconsin by 15%.

I urge you to oppose these bills (SB 186/AB 383) that threaten the continuation of this important program and that were improperly introduced, and to support the Family Planning Waiver that provides basic health care to low-income women and saves Wisconsin taxpayers millions of dollars.

Sincerely,

Adam Bindert 315 Polk St Apt 8 North Fond Du Lac, WI 54937-1259

Family Planning Waiver Enrollees



Wisconsin County Health Statistics

