

# Pro-Life Wisconsin



*Defending them all...*

P.O. Box 221      Brookfield, WI 53008-0221  
Phone (262) 796-1111      Fax (262) 796-1115  
info@prolifewisconsin.org      www.prolifewisconsin.org

March 18, 2011

**TO:** Members, Joint Committee on Finance  
**FROM:** Matt Sande, Director of Legislation  
**RE:** **Governor's Biennial Budget Bill (AB 40/SB 27)**

---

Governor Walker's 2011-2013 biennial budget proposal eliminates family planning funding under the Title V *Maternal and Child Health* program, repeals a current law mandate forcing public and private health insurers to cover contraceptives and removes men aged 15-44 from the *BadgerCare Family Planning Program*. Pro-Life Wisconsin applauds Governor Walker for these common sense budget provisions that respect the consciences of Wisconsin taxpayers. Accordingly, **we urge you to retain the following three provisions in the Governor's biennial budget bill:**

1) **Eliminating Title V family planning funds**

As it confronts an over \$3 billion structural deficit, the state of Wisconsin can no longer afford the controversial business of "family planning." All money is fungible. Family planning funds free up resources within receiving organizations, like **Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin**, to engage in the surgical abortion business. Confidential family planning services also include the provision of chemically abortifacient birth control drugs, such as the morning-after pill and the patch, to adults and minor children. Rather than throw money at organizations that perform or refer for abortion, family planning funds should be eliminated to help balance the state budget. Governor Walker's budget proposal makes a good start toward this end by eliminating the Title V *Maternal & Child Health* family planning program (\$3.4 million in annual state and federal spending). Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, the state's largest abortion provider, annually receives close to \$1 million in Title V state and federal matching funds. Polls consistently demonstrate that Americans are opposed to taxpayer funding of abortions.

2) **Repealing the contraception coverage mandate**

Current law forces commercial health insurance plans and self-insured governmental health plans (state, county, city, town, village, or school district) to cover contraceptive drugs and devices. Under this mandate, contraceptives are defined as drugs or devices approved by the FDA to "prevent pregnancy." Fertility/pregnancy is not a disease. Birth control for pregnancy prevention is not health care – it's a lifestyle choice. The government should not force private and public health insurers – and the policyholders (businesses and individuals) who are paying for this expansion through increased premiums – to cover drugs and devices that are purely elective and morally problematic for many Wisconsinites. The Governor says in his budget summary: "This requirement is an unacceptable government mandate on employers with moral objections to these services, and increases the cost of health insurance for all payers."

3) **Removing boys/men from the BadgerCare Family Planning Program**

The Governor's budget removes men aged 15-44 from the *BadgerCare Family Planning Program* (formerly known as the Medicaid Family Planning Waiver Program before the Obama Administration made the program permanent in Wisconsin last year). This state/federal program provides free, taxpayer-funded birth control to 15, 16 and 17-year-old boys and girls without their parents' knowledge or consent. This undermines parental authority in the sensitive area of teen sexual health and increases underage pregnancy, abortion, and sexually transmitted diseases by encouraging sexual promiscuity. We thank the Governor for removing boys from this program, and we encourage you to also remove minor girls by requesting a federal waiver to raise the program's minimum eligibility age from 15 to 18.

Thank you for your consideration.