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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Ethics Board identifies most lobbied bills in last legislative session

Using data compiled from reports filed by lobbying organizations at the end of January, the Wisconsin Ethics Board identified the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) as the most lobbied proposal of the 2003-2004 legislative session.

The Ethics Board found that lobbying organizations devoted over 18,000 hours<sup>1</sup> to influence the two TABOR measures considered by the state Assembly and Senate. Of the 88 organizations that lobbied on this proposal, 8 organizations registered their support, 51 organizations reported that they were opposed, 13 were undecided, and 16 did not disclose a position.

<u>Biggest Players</u>	<u>Reported Time</u>	<u>Reported Position</u>
• Wisconsin Property Taxpayers Inc	(3,237 hrs) <sup>2</sup>	↑ (for)
• AFSCME Council 11	(958 hrs)	↓ (against)
• Wisconsin Association of School Boards Inc	(625 hrs)	↓ (against)
• Wisconsin Realtors Association	(604 hrs)	↑ (for)
• Wisconsin Education Association Council	(539 hrs)	↓ (against)
• Wisconsin Alliance of Cities Inc	(502 hrs)	↓ (against)
• Wisconsin Hospital Association Inc (WHA)	(271 hrs)	? (not disclosed)
• City of Milwaukee	(244 hrs)	↓ (against)
• League of Wisconsin Municipalities	(228 hrs)	↔ (undecided)
• Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators	(218 hrs)	↓ (against)
• Wisconsin Council for Administrators of Special Services	(209 hrs)	↓ (against)
• Association of Wisconsin School Administrators	(202 hrs)	↓ (against)
• Kenosha County	(199 hrs)	↓ (against)
• Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials	(196 hrs)	↓ (against)
• Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association Inc	(183 hrs)	↓ (against)
• Outagamie County Board of Supervisors	(182 hrs)	↓ (against)
• Milwaukee Area Technical College	(151 hrs)	? (not disclosed)
• Wisconsin State AFL-CIO	(151 hrs)	↓ (against)

<sup>1</sup> Organizations spent more than 10,600 hours lobbying on 2003 AJR 55, and nearly 1,000 hours lobbying on 2003 SJR 76. Organizations also reported more than 6,500 hours of lobbying-related time before the introduction of the resolutions or after they had been tabled.

<sup>2</sup> On average, organizations' lobbyists reported spending one-quarter of their lobbying time communicating with government officials and the rest in preparation. Wisconsin Property Taxpayers Inc reported spending only one-tenth of its time communicating with officials.

“What is interesting,” said Erik Hayko, the Ethics Board’s lobbying administrator, “is how much more effort was put into lobbying on TABOR than on the other most lobbied legislative proposals of the session.

“About 5,000 more hours were spent lobbying on TABOR than on the next four most lobbied bills combined.” Those bills were:

<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Hours of lobbying reported</b>
• Job Creation Act (AB 655)	5,200 hours
• Concealed Carry (SB 214)	3,000 hours
• Health Care Provider Conscience Bill (AB 67)	2,500 hours
• Wireless 911 (AB 61)	2,300 hours

This data is part of the Wisconsin Ethics Board’s 2003-2004 Lobbying Report, which will be released later this week. This report will contain comprehensive, in-depth information about all lobbying activity for the session.

Anyone may see the contents of an individual organization’s lobbying report by visiting the ‘Lobbying In Wisconsin’ page of the Ethics Board’s website at <http://ethics.state.wi.us>

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Other bills receiving the attention of lobbying organizations were the **Job Creations Act (Assembly Bill 655)**, **Concealed Carry legislation (Senate Bill 214)**, the **Health Care Provider Conscience Bill (Assembly Bill 67)**, and **Wireless 911 (Assembly Bill 61)**.

Organizations devoted more than 5,200 hours to lobbying the **Job Creation Act**. The biggest players were:

- Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (1,212 hrs) ↑(for)
- Wisconsin Economic Development Association (591 hrs) ↑(for)
- Wisconsin Builders Association (465 hrs) ↑(for)
- Northern States Power d/b/a Xcel Energy (374 hrs) ?(not disclosed)
- Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (314 hrs) ↓(against)
- SBC-Wisconsin (244 hrs) ↑(for)
- Alliant Energy Corporation (189 hrs) ↑(for)
- Wisconsin Hospital Association (168 hrs) ?(not disclosed)
- Clean Wisconsin (152 hrs) ↓(against)
- 1000 Friends of Wisconsin (125 hrs) ↓(against)

**Assembly Bill 655**  
Signed into law by the Governor

**92 organizations lobbied this bill**  
34 – for  
16 – against  
17 – undecided/had reservation  
25 – position not disclosed

Organizations devoted more than 3,000 hours to lobbying **Concealed Carry** legislation. The biggest players were:

- National Rifle Association-Institute for Legislative Action (850 hrs) ↑(for)
- Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association (305 hrs) ↓(against)
- Wisconsin Hospital Association Inc (WHA) (271 hrs) ?(not disclosed)
- Wisconsin Troopers Association Inc (206 hrs) ?(not disclosed)
- Aurora Health Care Inc (161 hrs) ↓(against)
- Wisconsin Council on Children & Families (138 hrs) ↓(against)
- Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (131 hrs) ↓(against)

**Senate Bill 214**  
Vetoed in whole by the Governor

**74 organizations lobbied this bill**  
3 – for  
29 – against  
18 – undecided/had reservation  
24 – position not disclosed

Organizations devoted more than 2,500 hours to lobbying the **Health Care Provider Conscience Bill**. The biggest players were:

- Wisconsin Right to Life Inc (861 hrs) ↑(for)
- Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin (580 hrs) ↓(against)
- AARP (380 hrs) ↓(against)
- Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin Inc (241 hrs) ↓(against)
- Pro-Life Wisconsin (173 hrs) ↓(against)

**Assembly Bill 67**  
Vetoed in whole by the Governor

**29 organizations lobbied this bill**  
3 – for  
14 – against  
1 – undecided/had reservation  
11 – position not disclosed

Organizations devoted more than 2,300 hours to lobbying **Wireless 911** legislation. The biggest players were:

- Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association (274 hrs) ↓(against)
- SBC-Wisconsin (235 hrs) ↑(for)
- American Heart Association (212 hrs) ↑(for)
- T-Mobile (194 hrs) ?(not disclosed)
- City of Milwaukee (178 hrs) ↔(undecided)

**Assembly Bill 61**  
Signed into law by the Governor with partial vetoes

**38 organizations lobbied this bill**  
7 – for  
3 – against  
13 – undecided/had reservation  
15 – position not disclosed