

# Wisconsin Right to Life

**Wisconsin Right to Life**  
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**For release:** Thursday, June 2, 2005

**Wisconsin Right to Life has sent the following memo to members of the Joint Finance Committee in support of two upcoming budget motions**

**TO:** Members of the Joint Finance Committee  
cc: State Senators and Assembly Representatives

**FROM:** Susan Armacost, Legislative Director

**RE: Wisconsin Right to Life urges you to support two important budget motions**

<p><b>1. MOTION TO PROTECT TAXPAYERS FROM BEING FORCED TO SUPPORT THE DESTRUCTION OF HUMAN EMBRYOS FOR RESEARCH AND THE CLONING OF HUMAN EMBRYOS FOR ANY REASON</b></p>
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Wisconsin Right to Life strongly supports stem cell research as long as it does not involve the destruction of human life. However, the Governor's budget contains elements that will permit **taxpayer supported** research that involves the destruction of human embryos in order to obtain their stem cells. This budget also leaves open the opportunity for **taxpayer supported** cloning of human embryos in order to destroy them to obtain their stem cells.

While there is no specific budget item that says "embryonic stem cell research" or "human cloning," all the groundwork is laid in the budget to use public buildings paid for by Wisconsin taxpayers and maintained by those same taxpayers, for the destruction of human embryos and the cloning of human embryos. And public employees, whose salaries are paid by Wisconsin taxpayers, would be free to engage in those activities. This is in addition to any state tax dollars that may be "buried" in the budget under various categories and that would be used for these purposes.

Governor Doyle has publicly expressed his desire for Wisconsin to carry out embryonic stem cell research. ***Unless amended, the budget he has proposed will force hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin residents, who object to the intentional destruction of human life, to become unwilling participants in something they consider reprehensible. It is the moral, ethical and scientific equivalent to forcing taxpayers to fund abortions!***

You should also be aware that the Wisconsin biotech industry was out in force two years ago to testify and lobby against legislation that would have banned human cloning in our state. It is clear that those who wish to carry out embryonic stem cell research in our state have no intention of stopping with "left over" embryos from fertility clinics ... their goal is to create and/ or **clone** human embryos for research! ***The over one-half million members and supporters of Wisconsin Right to Life do not want to be forced to pay for the creation of human life in order to destroy it!***

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**Wisconsin Right to Life strongly supports the budget motion that will be offered that:**

- 1).** Prohibits the use of state tax dollars to clone and/or destroy any human embryos;
- 2).** Prohibits the use of public buildings that are build with state tax dollars or are maintained by state tax dollars for these purposes; and **3).** Prohibits public employees from engaging in those activities

## **2. FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES FUNDING PREFERENCE**

Wisconsin Right to Life takes no position on family planning programs that are intended to prevent the creation of new human life. Wisconsin Right to Life does strongly believe, however, that there should be changes regarding which entities are given preference in receiving state family planning dollars.

***Wisconsin Right to Life strongly supports a budget motion that will give preference to local health departments or tribal health centers in allocating state family planning dollars and Maternal and Child Health block grant funds for family planning services.***

This budget motion is necessary because the granting of state family planning funds to some private organizations in Wisconsin is actually being used to promote abortion and line the pockets of Wisconsin's largest abortion provider.

For example, Planned Parenthood operates approximately 27 family planning clinics located throughout the state which receive state family planning dollars. Planned Parenthood also operates 3 abortion clinics in Wisconsin, making it the largest abortion provider in the state. Planned Parenthood uses their 27 family planning clinics as sites from which to refer pregnant women right over to their own abortion clinics to obtain abortions. Abortion is a highly profit-oriented business and each woman Planned Parenthood refers to their abortion clinics means more money in coffers of the state's largest abortion provider. ***This is a blatant conflict of interest***, something the State of Wisconsin should not perpetuate.

**Wisconsin Right to Life strongly supports the budget motion regarding family planning services funding preference** that would require the Department of Health and Family Services to give preference to local health departments or tribal health centers in allocating state family planning dollars and Maternal and Child Health block grant funds for family planning services. Any remaining funds could be allocated to private organizations

This motion would minimize the State of Wisconsin's involvement in the blatant conflict of interest that exists when a private organization uses a state-subsidized family planning clinic as a site from which to refer women to that organization's own abortion clinics. It would also provide a more effective use of public funds by focusing the family planning grants on local health departments and tribal health centers that have a greater need for the funding in order to continue or expand the services they currently provide.

**Wisconsin Right to Life urges you to support these two motions when they come before the Joint Finance Committee.**

Thank you.