

Wisconsin Right to Life: Calls for context in COVID-19 reporting

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Today, Wisconsin Right to Life sent a letter to Department of Health Services Secretary-designee Andrea Palm, requesting the publication of other data in conjunction with the daily publication of COVID-19 statistics.

Even amid the pandemic, thousands in the state are losing their lives to other causes, such as heart diseases and abortion. The COVID-19 testing, diagnoses, and death numbers allow leaders to best determine policy and recommendations for keeping Wisconsinites safe. Implementing similar procedures for other statistics could have benefit as well.

“Data without context can instill unnecessary fear and confusion. We are not wanting to devalue those lives lost to COVID-19, but rather draw attention to the tragedy that any loss of life is,” shares Kristen Nupson, legislative director of Wisconsin Right to Life.

In the letter, Wisconsin Right to Life suggested publishing other statistics such as traffic deaths, abortion deaths, or influenza diagnoses to give a better “framework of understanding to Wisconsinites.”

Nupson states, “This global crisis has affected each of us. We grieve every life lost, though, not just those taken by COVID-19. Our hope is that Secretary-designee Palm is able to facilitate our request and demonstrate the value of all human life.”