



PO Box 1327 • Madison WI 53701-1327  
608-268-5074 (Madison) • 866-849-2536 (toll-free) • 608-256-3370 (fax)  
Email: [info@wisconsinfamilyaction.org](mailto:info@wisconsinfamilyaction.org)  
Web site: [www.wisconsinfamilyaction.org](http://www.wisconsinfamilyaction.org)

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## LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Wisconsin State Assembly  
From: Julaine K. Appling, President  
Date: December 6, 2007  
Re: Senate Bill 129/Assembly Bill 377

Wisconsin Family Action (WFA) strongly urges all Assembly Representatives to vote “**no**” on SB129/AB 377, a bill that would force hospitals with religious associations and hospital personnel with moral or religious objections to abortion, to dispense the so-called “morning-after-pill” to sexual assault victims. This bill blatantly violates hospital employees’ constitutional freedom of conscience right, guaranteed by Article 1, Section 18 of the Wisconsin constitution.

“...[N]or shall any control of, or interference with, the rights of conscience be permitted.”

The so-called “emergency-contraception” authorized by this bill has a break-through ovulation rate of 35% to 65% with a high probability of fertilization and subsequent abortion. Because of this, the risk of chemical abortion associated with the morning-after-pill, Plan B, is extremely high. Pro-life medical personnel must be able to refuse to dispense the pill based on their **constitutionally-protected right to freedom of conscience.**

As a Wisconsin State Representative, you have sworn an oath to “support...the constitution of the State of Wisconsin...” Many physicians, including the four Wisconsin Guilds of the Catholic Medical Association (Milwaukee, La Crosse, Chippewa Valley, and Central Wisconsin) oppose this bill. If SB129/AB377 is passed, pro-life physicians, nurses and emergency room personnel would be forced to dispense this medication in violation of their constitutional rights. It is your sworn duty to uphold the constitution, including the right of the citizens of Wisconsin to freedom of conscience.

Victims of rape deserve our sympathy, love and care. However, hospitals with religious affiliations that condemn abortion and pro-life medical personnel should not have to choose between their conscience and their livelihood. Freedom of conscience is one of the most basic, fundamental rights in our state constitution—it must be protected.

**Amendment 1 to SB 129/AB 377** creates an exception for hospitals and hospital personnel with moral or religious objections to dispensing the “emergency contraception” pill.

**Wisconsin Family Action strongly encourages you to fulfill your duty and uphold the oath you took to support the Wisconsin constitution.** We urge you to vote “**no**” on any efforts to remove Amendment 1 and “**no**” on the final passage of SB129/AB 377.

JKA

*Wisconsin Family Action is the legislative action arm of Wisconsin Family Council. ([www.wifamilycouncil.org](http://www.wifamilycouncil.org))*