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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF “CHRISTMAS TREE” RESOLUTION**  
*Assembly votes 84 to 12 to restore the name of the tree in the Capitol Rotunda*

MADISON—“Last night in the State Assembly, the Grinch lost and Christmas won,” said Julaine Appling, president of Wisconsin Family Action.

In an overwhelming affirmation of the traditional celebration of Christmas, the State Assembly voted yesterday in favor of Representative Marlin Schneider’s (D-Wisconsin Rapids) resolution to restore the name of the decorated tree in the Capitol Rotunda to the “Wisconsin State Christmas Tree.” Wisconsin Family Action congratulates Representative Schneider on the success of his resolution and commends the 84 members in the Assembly who voted in favor of Assembly Joint Resolution 5 (AJR 5). All 51 Republicans were joined by 33 Democrats for a solid bi-partisan vote.

AJR 5 appropriately restores the traditional name of an international symbol of the celebration of Christmas. Christmas is a part of America’s heritage, celebrated by 95% of Americans each December (Fox News/Opinion Dynamics, 2005). Supposedly, the tree has been called a “holiday tree” for the last twenty-one years in order not to offend anyone with the word, “Christmas.” Appling points out, “It’s ironic that the overwhelming majority of Wisconsinites are more likely to be offended by the title, ‘holiday tree,’ compared to the few people who would oppose the title, ‘Christmas tree.’”

Unfortunately, because of a prolonged recess for partisan caucuses in the Assembly yesterday, the resolution was not passed in time to be sent to the Senate for a vote before they adjourned for the year. Consequently, the resolution will not be taken up in the Senate until next year, well after the Christmas season has ended. Nevertheless, Wisconsin Family Action encourages our Wisconsin State Senators to recognize the Christmas season, celebrated each year throughout Wisconsin’s communities, by passing this resolution.

The thousands of Wisconsinites who will visit our beautiful state capitol this December are celebrating “Christmas,” not generic “holiday” or “winter solstice.” The tree in the Capitol Rotunda is not a “holiday tree” to them; it is a Christmas tree. “The Assembly voted the Grinch out of the Capitol Rotunda yesterday,” says Appling, “and we’re counting on the Senate to keep him out.”

Wisconsin Family Action commends the passage of AJR 5 by the state Assembly last night as a reasonable and lawful recognition of an internationally-recognized symbol of Christmas.

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Wisconsin Family Action, the legislative action arm of Wisconsin Family Council ([www.wifamilycouncil.org](http://www.wifamilycouncil.org)), advocates for the strengthening and preserving of marriage, family, life and liberty in Wisconsin.