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Testimony in Support of Assembly Bill 427
“Coercive Abortion Prevention Act”
Assembly Committee on Judiciary and Ethics
Thursday, September 13, 2007

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Assembly Bill 427, the “Coercive Abortion Prevention Act.”

This bill closes a loophole in Wisconsin’s current Women’s Right To Know law by requiring the abortionist to determine whether a woman is being coerced into having an abortion; the current law has no specific requirement for the abortionist to do so. In addition, the bill requires that an abortionist must provide the woman with information on resources for victims, or potential victims, of domestic violence. This information helps provide a safety net for the woman who does not want to abort her child. It is important to remember that a genuine pro-choice position respects a woman’s decision to choose life for her unborn child.

A 2004 study published in the *Medical Science Monitor* indicated that 64 percent of American women who have had abortions reported being pressured into their abortions. Abortion is often a woman’s last choice. However, it is often the first choice for her unborn child’s father, for her employer, for her parents, for those counseling her, and for any other people in her life who would somehow be affected by her choosing life for her unborn child.

Portraits of Coercion, America’s Silent Epidemic is published by the Elliot Institute, an organization that for nearly 20 years has provided research, education and outreach on the effects of abortion on women, men, families and society. In this report, post-abortive women tell their stories. Listen to some of their comments: “I screamed that I didn’t want the abortion.” “My husband exploded in anger ... ‘Have an abortion or I’ll leave you.’” “No one told me there were places I could go for help.” “The abortionist strapped me down and said, ‘Shut up and quit that yelling.’” “All the people that mattered told me to abort. No one would help me.”

Properly understood and enforced, Wisconsin’s Coercive Abortion Prevention Act will keep these stories from becoming the stories of Wisconsin women who want to choose life for their unborn children but don’t believe they have that choice because of threats and pressure from the people whom they had expected to—and hoped would—support them in their life-affirming decision.

I urge you to vote for this bill.

Thank you.