WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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State Senate Votes to Protect the Right to Life and Human Decency

Madison – On Wednesday, Senator Chris Kapenga (R-Delafield) led Senate Republicans in voting to protect the right to life and basic human decency during a regular session of the state Senate. Assembly Bill 310 and Senate Bill 238, co-authored by Kapenga and Representative André Jacque (R-De Pere), redirect funding that is currently sent to abortion providers.

"Taxpayer funds should not be used to subsidize abortions. Representative Jacque and I strongly pushed for these bills since the beginning of the fall session," Kapenga said. "We are both committed to protecting society's most vulnerable. This legislation will lessen the flow of state tax dollars to abortion providers, while ensuring that qualified health care providers are better able to serve low-income patients."

Assembly Bill 310 requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to apply for and distribute Title X grant funds to public entities; including state, county, and local health departments, and the Wisconsin Well Woman Program. The Senate approved this proposal by a vote of 19-14. It now heads to Governor Walker's desk to be signed into law.

"After the stories about the reprehensible acts of abortion providers came to light, we knew that something needed to be done," Jacque said. "This legislation is crucial to closing the loopholes that allow providers to subsidize abortions with taxpayer dollars. I thank Senator Kapenga for his leadership on Assembly Bill 310, and I am hopeful that the Assembly will now take up Senate Bill 238 during the next floor period."

Senate Bill 238 requires that, when billing Medical Assistance, certain covered entities shall only bill the actual acquisition cost plus a reasonable dispensing fee. The Senate approved this proposal by a vote of 19-14. It is now available for scheduling in the Assembly.

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