

WISCONSIN SENATE REPUBLICANS ISSUE BRIEFS FOR THE 2015-16 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WISCONSIN'S PRO-LIFE LEGISLATION

www.wisenategop.com

HISTORY

Legislative Republicans are committed to protecting the most vulnerable in our society - and there is no more vulnerable population than the unborn. Since 2011, legislative republicans and Governor Walker have aggressively pursued an agenda which not only has saved the lives of unborn children, but has also enhanced the quality of women's healthcare in Wisconsin.

The results are clear, according to DHS the number of abortions performed in Wisconsin has fallen significantly since 2011ⁱ and Wisconsin's abortion rate is well below the national averageⁱⁱ. While these results are encouraging, there is still work to be done. Legislative democrats and legal challenges to common sense abortion restrictions continue to pose a threat to the unborn.

While nationally abortion has been legal since the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Roe v Wade* (1973), partial-birth abortion was made illegal in Wisconsin through a legislative act in 1998.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION (SINCE 2011)

2016 - WISCONSIN ACT 152 (SB 238) - STOPS PLANNED PARENTHOOD FROM OVERBILLING TAXPAYERS

Prohibits family planning providers like Planned Parenthood from billing Medicaid at an inflated rate. [ACT 152](#) will save Wisconsin taxpayers from subsidizing abortion providers through abuse of this loophole.

2016 - WISCONSIN ACT 151 (SB 310) - REDIRECTING TITLE X DOLLARS

Requires DHS to direct Title X funds to organizations that do not provide abortions. Like [ACT 152](#), this bill closes a loophole used to fund abortion providers, like Planned Parenthood, against the wishes of taxpayers.

2015 - WISCONSIN ACT 56 (SB 179) - THE PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT (20 WEEK ABORTION BAN)

[ACT 179](#) protects unborn babies capable of feeling pain (20 weeks post-fertilization age) from abortion, making Wisconsin the twelfth state to ban the practice. Based on DHS abortion statistics, the newly enacted law will protect up to 83 Wisconsin babies a year from the pain of abortionⁱⁱⁱ.

2013 - WISCONSIN ACT 37 (SB 206) - SONYA'S LAW (ULTRASOUND REQUIREMENTS AND ADMITTING PRIVILEGES)

Sonya's Law requires a woman to have an ultrasound 24 hours prior to an abortion being performed. She will be able to see the unborn child as well as the child's heartbeat on ultrasound. A verbal description of what is displayed will be given to her by a trained medical professional. The method of ultrasound used is at the discretion of the patient.

[ACT 37](#) also requires that doctors who perform abortions have admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of the abortion clinic.

NOTE: This provision is not being enforced as a result of decisions from the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals^{iv} and the U.S. Supreme Court^v.

www.wisenategop.com

2011 - WISCONSIN ACT 218 (**SB 92**) - OPT-OUT OF ABORTION SUBSIDIES IN OBAMACARE

The Affordable Care Act contains provisions which would lead to federal funding of abortions. The only option for states to protect taxpayers from funding abortion through the ACA is a provision allowing a state to opt-out of abortion coverage in the health insurance exchanges. **ACT 218** accomplishes this goal.

2011 - WISCONSIN ACT 217 (**SB 306**) - THE COERCIVE AND WEB CAM ABORTION PREVENTION ACT

ACT 217 provides numerous protections to ensure that women are not being coerced into having an abortion. Under Act 217 the physician must make an assessment to determine if a woman's consent to an abortion is voluntary. The bill requires that the abortion provider speak to the woman in private to determine if she is being coerced.

The act also requires a physical exam and in- person administration of chemical abortion-inducing drugs. This requirement effectively ends the practice of webcam abortions in Wisconsin.

Finally, **ACT 217** repeals penalties to women who obtain abortions. This ensures if abortions become illegal again in Wisconsin, a woman who obtains an abortion cannot be fined or imprisoned.

2011 - WISCONSIN ACT 32 (**AB 40**) - PROVISIONS IN BIENNIAL STATE BUDGET

Prevents the University of Wisconsin from paying medical students to learn to perform abortions.

Redirects \$1 million Title V taxpayer dollars away from Planned Parenthood.

ⁱ <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p45360-14.pdf>

ⁱⁱ https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states?qclid=Cj0KEQjw4827BRDjvpbVuKvx-rlBEiQA2_CzsFtX--XcJMGxSRWBYYNmTucheojAWVNvuRzBegehYqAqrl8P8HAQ#2

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p45360-14.pdf>

^{iv} <http://media.jrn.com/documents/admittingprivileges.pdf>

^v http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/15pdf/15-274_p8k0.pdf