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***Coercive Abortion Prevention Act (AB 427)* Would Address the Growing Problem of Forced Abortions**

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The *Coercive Abortion Prevention Act* (AB 427) would protect women who are being coerced into having an abortion. Research collected after decades of legalized abortion reveals that, in many situations, choosing to abort is not what the woman really wants. The *Medical Science Monitor* reported in 2004 that according to a study of American post-abortive women, 64% of the women felt pressured by others to have an abortion. Pregnant women are intimidated into aborting through financial, relational or emotional threats.

At a public hearing held on this bill on September 13 before the Assembly Judiciary and Ethics Committee, courageous Wisconsin women told their personal stories regarding their own experiences with coerced abortions. Also testifying were representatives of organizations who counsel women who have had abortions, including those who have been coerced into having abortions.

The committee approved AB 427 on a bi-partisan vote of 8 to 2. Assembly action on the bill is expected soon.

Current Wisconsin law prohibits an abortionist from performing an abortion on a woman against her will. Unfortunately, women entering Wisconsin's abortion clinics are not aware of this law and the abortionist is not required to assess whether the woman is being coerced into having an abortion. Assembly Bill 427 would remedy this glaring shortcoming in current law.

"Legislators, even those who support legal abortion, understand that no woman should be forced to submit to an abortion against her will," said Susan Armacost, Legislative Director of Wisconsin Right to Life. "This important legislation will reinforce the fact that it is against Wisconsin law to perform an abortion on a woman against her will."

The Coercive Abortion Prevention Act is authored in the Assembly by Rep. Mark Gundrum (R-New Berlin) and Rep. Pat Strachota (R-West Bend). The Senate authors are Sen. Roger Breske (D-Eland) and Sen. Mary Lazich (R-New Berlin).

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