



LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

2011-2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

COERCIVE AND WEBCAM ABORTION PREVENTION ACT

Authored by Senator Mary Lazich and Representative Michelle Litjens

Assembly Bill 371 - Senate Bill 306

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of this legislation is twofold:

- To protect a woman who is being coerced into having an abortion.
- To protect a woman from remote location abortions without being seen by a physician.

WHY THIS BILL IS NECESSARY

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.

Abortion providers are now offering RU 486 chemical abortions on women diagnosed as pregnant from remote locations without an in person physical exam. Through April of 2011, the FDA reports 2207 adverse events related to use of RU 486. These events include 14 deaths, 612 hospitalizations, 58 ectopic pregnancies, 339 blood transfusions, and 256 cases of infection. A European drug manufacturer has publicly stated that 29 women have died worldwide after using RU 486. Remote location abortions increase that risk.

This legislation will protect women by acting as a deterrent to coerced abortion and requiring that dangerous abortion drugs be administered in person.

WISCONSIN'S WOMAN'S RIGHT TO KNOW LAW

In 1996 Wisconsin enacted the Woman's Right to Know (WRTK) law (s.253.10) to ensure that a woman who is considering an elective abortion receives relevant information regarding her pregnancy, her unborn child, the abortion procedure, and alternatives to abortion. The WRTK law details the specific information that must be given to the woman, except in the case of a medical emergency, followed by a 24 hour reflection period to allow the woman time to absorb and assimilate the information. The WRTK law specifically provides that an abortion may not be performed unless the

woman upon whom the abortion is to be performed has given voluntary and informed consent under the requirements of this law.

WHAT THE BILL WOULD DO

The Woman's Protection Act would add the following requirements to the current Woman's Right to Know law:

1. Any physician who is doing the informed consent counseling with a woman considering an abortion will be required to, in person, orally inform the woman that she has a right to refuse to consent to an abortion, that her consent is not voluntary if any person is using coercion to compel her to consent to have an abortion against her will, and that it is unlawful for the physician to perform an abortion upon her against her will. She will be provided with information on places to receive help if she is at risk of domestic abuse.
2. Administration of RU 486 or any drug or chemical used to induce an abortion on a woman diagnosed as pregnant would be required to be done in the same room and in the physical presence of the physician who prescribed, dispensed, or otherwise provided the drug or chemical to the patient. Every reasonable effort would have to be made to ensure the patient returns for a follow-up visit so that the physician can confirm the pregnancy has been terminated and to assess the patient's medical condition.

Wisconsin Right to Life strongly supports the Coercive and Webcam Abortion Prevention Act authored by Senator Mary Lazich and Rep. Michelle Litjens.