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NEWS RELEASE

WRTL Urges Officials to Determine if UW is Violating Wisconsin's Abortion-Funding Law

June 7, 2010

Senator Kathleen Vinehout, Joint Legislative Audit Committee Co-Chair
Representative Peter Barca, Joint Legislative Audit Committee Co-Chair
Wisconsin State Legislature
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Dear Senator Vinehout and Representative Barca,

I am writing on behalf of Wisconsin Right to Life to request that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to look into whether the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics Authority (UWHCA) is in compliance with section 20.927 of the Wisconsin statutes. Section 20.927 prohibits the use of state tax dollars from paying physicians, surgeons, hospitals, clinics or any other medical facility for the performance of an abortion except under specific circumstances outlined in the law.

In a letter to State Auditor Janice Mueller dated May 25, 2010, Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen encouraged the Legislative Audit Bureau to look into the possibility that UWHCA is violating section 20.927 by using its funds to pay medical residents for performing abortions at Planned Parenthood.

In his letter, Attorney General Van Hollen outlined the information from UWHCA that would be helpful in determining whether UWHCA is in violation of the law. We are requesting that your committee urge State Auditor Mueller to look into this matter and determine if the law is being violated in this egregious manner at taxpayer expense.

Sincerely,

Susan Armacost, Legislative Director

Susan Armacost, Legislative/PAC Director
Wisconsin Right to Life

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