



Heal Without Harm

ETHICAL RESEARCH COALITION

Heal Without Harm is a coalition of organizations and citizens dedicated to working with the scientific community to encourage it toward ethical research. The coalition is composed of member organizations, including: Wisconsin Right to Life, Wisconsin Catholic Conference, Wisconsin Family Action and Pro-Life Wisconsin, among others.



Nov. 14th, 2017

AB 550 Will Encourage New Avenues of Discovery

Madison - Today the Heal Without Harm (HWH) Coalition testified in support of AB 550, one of the bills that makes up the Heal Without Harm Legislative Initiative, at the Assembly Committee on Health's public hearing.

The Heal Without Harm Legislative Initiative consists of two complementary bills, the Fetal Remains Respect Act (SB 423/AB 549) and the Unborn Child Disposition and Anatomical Gift Act (SB 424/AB 550), authored by Sen. Terry Moulton (R-Chippewa Falls) and Rep. Joel Kleefisch (R-Oconomowoc).

AB 550, *The Unborn Child Disposition and Anatomical Gift Act*, requires that in every instance of an unborn child's death due to stillbirth or miscarriage (i.e., where the child dies naturally or accidentally) within a facility, the facility shall inform the mother that she may request her child's remains either for final disposition and/or to make an anatomical gift for research, experimentation, study, or transplantation. AB 550 also requires the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to study the feasibility of developing a fetal tissue and umbilical cord blood bank for use in research and experimentation. Such banks are vital to scientific advancement and would expand our state's biotech sector.

At the public hearing, the HWH Coalition stated that, "Our state needs to do a better job of supporting and promoting the use of ethical tissues. No patient should have to face the difficult choice of using or refusing an unethically-derived treatment."

The HWH Coalition continued, highlighting that, "When enacted, AB 550 will encourage new avenues of discovery and attract new researchers and biotech firms."

With limited floor periods left this year, and leadership in both chambers indicating that there will be an early end to session, the Heal Without Harm Coalition understands that time is

short for AB 550, and its companion bill AB 549, to be successful. Wisconsinites are encouraged to contact their state legislators and ask them to ensure that the full Heal Without Harm Legislative Initiative is passed in both houses as soon as possible.

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