

Pro-Life Wisconsin Testifies in Support of Bill Banning the Sale and Use of Aborted Fetal Body Parts

In the wake of undercover videos documenting Planned Parenthood affiliates across the nation engaging in the trafficking of aborted fetal body parts, Pro-Life Wisconsin (PLW) issued a press release calling on the Wisconsin Legislature to immediately pass legislation banning the sale and use of aborted fetal body parts. PLW Legislative Director Matt Sande stated, "The aborted preborn child did not consent to his or her abortion and certainly did not consent to experimentation. Human dignity demands that our aborted brothers and sisters receive a proper burial, not to mention their full protection as persons under the law. Human beings may never be a means to an end, however noble."

The past two legislative sessions PLW has strongly supported legislation authored by State Representative Andre Jacque that would prohibit the sale and use of aborted human fetal body parts. Five states have enacted similar prohibitions on the sale and experimentation of aborted fetal tissue: Ohio, Illinois, Florida, Arizona and Oklahoma.

Authored by Reps. **Andre Jacque** (R-De Pere) and **Joel Kleefisch** (R-Oconomowoc), 2015 **Assembly Bill (AB) 305** bans persons from knowingly and for valuable consideration acquiring, receiving, or transferring a fetal body part. It also bans persons from knowingly providing, receiving, or using for experimentation a fetal body part. Fetal body part is defined to mean a cell, tissue, organ, or other part of an unborn child who is aborted by an induced abortion. State Senator Duey Stroebel (R-Saukville) is the bill's lead Senate author.

At a public hearing in the State Capitol in August, PLW State Director Dan Miller testified in favor of AB 305 before the Assembly Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee chaired by Rep. Kleefisch. Miller stated, "Profiting from aborted baby body parts is clearly an abomination and an affront to our human dignity. Not only are Wisconsin's pre-born children being summarily torn, limb from limb, but are treated as property, sold to the highest bidder. In light of the millions spent on fetal tissue research, it should be noted that not one disease has been cured with aborted stem cell lines – NOT ONE. With God's grace and men and women of good will, we intend to stop the war on babies."

Federal law prohibits the interstate trafficking of human fetal body parts. Wisconsin's intrastate commercial activity must have a similar prohibition so that we can guarantee the highest ethical standards of academic research and medical care in our state. University of Wisconsin officials have time and again attacked this legislation, claiming that it will have a "chilling effect" on the biomedical research UW-Madison is currently conducting using aborted fetal tissue. We expect Wisconsin's medical research community to procure fetal tissue ethically; for example, from stillbirths or miscarriages with maternal consent.

Pro-Life Wisconsin will work very hard to ensure AB 305 is passed by the Wisconsin Legislature and signed into law by Governor Walker.