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Testimony before the Senate Committee on Licensing, Constitution and Federalism

Senate Bill 346

September 19, 2023

Thank you Chair Jacque, Vice-Chair Nass, and members of the Senate Committee on Licensing, Constitution and Federalism for holding this hearing on Senate Bill (SB) 346, relating to a grant program for financial assistance for adoption and making an appropriation. As described by the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB), SB 346 requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to administer a competitive grant program for the purpose of providing financial assistance to prospective adoptive families. The requirements for receiving this grant are detailed and prescriptive, but not onerous.

As the mother of five adopted children, I understand the financial toll the adoption process can have on a family. We all know it is important that children be adopted into a loving and caring family unit. Through the financial support of this grant, we can ensure that money is not a barrier for children to enter a loving home.

With few organizations in Wisconsin offering financial assistance to adoptive families who reach a certain point in the process, SB 346 provides an opportunity for qualified families to complete the adoption process and provide a stable home for children in need of adoption.

Thank you for your kind consideration and support of this legislation. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

TO: Senator André Jacque, Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Licensing, Constitution and Federalism

FROM: Tia Izzia, Associate Director for Human Life & Social Concerns

DATE: September 19, 2023

RE: Support for Senate Bills 300, 343, 344, 345, and 346

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC), the public policy voice of the Catholic bishops of Wisconsin, urges you to support the five bills before your committee today that truly empower and protect the dignity of human life in Wisconsin: Senate Bills 300, 343, 344, 345, and 346.

Senate Bill 300 *Abortion Activity Prohibition*

SB-300 has a clear and straightforward objective – to ensure that public funds, employees, and assets do not assist in the taking of human life. All too often, abortion is seen as a quick solution to human problems and framed as health care. It bears repeating that taking a human life cannot and can never be considered health care, for it is neither healthy nor caring. Since 1919, the bishops of the United States have been vocal advocates of the idea that all Americans should enjoy access to affordable health care, especially those who are vulnerable or of limited means. As the U.S. bishops stated in 1993, “Health care is more than a commodity; it is a basic human right, an essential safeguard of human life and dignity.”

We affirm that Wisconsin must continue to seek improved access to comprehensive health care services for those in need, especially women. However, abortion, and activities that facilitate abortion, do not reflect the respect for human dignity that should be at the heart of everything a government does on behalf of its citizens. SB-300 does what government ought to do: protect the living.

Senate Bill 343 *Abortion Definition*

An abortion, or the intentional killing of a preborn child, is never medically necessary to save a woman’s life. SB-343 clarifies that a medical procedure designed to prevent the death of a pregnant woman, such as the removal of a miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy, is not an abortion. In rare instances, a medical procedure that saves a mother’s life has the unintended consequence of leading to a birth in which the child does not survive. In those cases, every effort is still made to save the child’s life, even though the child’s death may be an unintended consequence of the intervention. When the death of a preborn child is imminent, perinatal hospice and palliative care provide families with a nonviolent way to care for their child and grieve a premature death.¹ Catholic hospitals have led the way in caring for women and children in these very complicated cases and know how to care for both.

¹ Perinatal Hospice and Palliative Care, www.perinatalhospice.org/list-of-programs.

Senate Bill 344 *Dependent Tax Exemption*

SB-344 increases the dollar amount taxpayers can claim as an exemption for every dependent from \$700 to \$1,000 and extends that coverage not only to children aged 0-17, but also to preborn children. As any parent can tell you, costs begin to add up long before a baby arrives, from the cost of healthcare to preparing their home to welcome their child. Further, a woman experiencing medical complications during her pregnancy may need to take time off of work, which will likely be unpaid. Childcare rates too have hit Wisconsin families especially hard. As costs continue to climb, Wisconsin must take steps to support the economic well-being of families. SB-344 is a commonsense bill that can provide real support to families right now.

Senate Bill 345 *Grants to Pregnancy Resource Centers*

For decades, Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRCs) have been on the ground helping to immediately respond to women's individual needs. A state that is committed to the welfare of women and children should assist these organizations that provide everything from material goods, parenting classes, and housing assistance. These organizations are adept at tailoring their assistance to the needs of each woman thus ensuring that no woman is left to shoulder her burdens alone. SB-345's critical funding will help countless women and families across Wisconsin.

Senate Bill 346 *Financial Assistance for Adoption*

If a woman chooses to place her child for adoption, there should be no doubt in her mind that there is a family that can welcome and raise her child. However, for the many families willing and eager to adopt, the cost of adoption is often a steep barrier. For this reason, SB-346 creates an Adoption Financial Assistance Grant Program to make adoption a more affordable option for all Wisconsin families. Awards are limited to \$10,000 per family and may only be awarded to or on behalf of families in this state who are adopting children in this state.

Each of these bills does what we need at this moment in history: to truly embrace both woman and child, rather than pitting them against each other. In the words of Pope Francis, we can never "solve a problem by eliminating a person" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 214). This is not a uniquely Catholic or even religious idea. This is just common sense.

And while these bills are crucial, much more needs to be done. Wisconsin must expand postpartum care, reduce costs for birth, eliminate racial disparities in maternal and infant mortality, support birth mothers, remove sales tax on feminine hygiene products and baby supplies, and more. Together, we can build an economy and society in Wisconsin where women and children can live safely and readily access the resources they need to thrive.



Romaine Robert Quinn

STATE SENATOR • 25TH SENATE DISTRICT

From: **Senator Romaine Robert Quinn**
To: **Senate Committee on Licensing, Constitution and Federalism**
Re: **Testimony on Embrace Them Both: Senate Bills 343, 344, 345, 346**
Date: **September 19, 2023**

Thank you Senator Jacque and committee members for receiving my testimony today on this important package of bills that reaffirms the pro-life position of embracing both the mother and child. I could not be prouder to work on these bills with some amazing pro-life legislators and advocacy groups. Taken together, the bills demonstrate a clear commitment to families throughout the state and begin to build back the culture of life that is slowly eroding from our state's cultural discourse.

Senate Bill 343

It has always been the pro-life position to protect both the life of the mother and her unborn child during pregnancy. Though I join many others in saying that the current laws in Wisconsin already provide for these safeguards, pro-abortion groups have sadly sowed doubt on the matter. Whether you say you are pro-life or pro-choice, I think we can all agree that clarity is a good thing. This bill provides that clarity by stating that the medical procedures of an early induction or cesarean section performed due to a medical emergency, the removal of a miscarriage, or the removal of an ectopic, anembryonic, or molar pregnancy, are not abortions. However, in all of these cases, a physician must make reasonable medical efforts to preserve *both* the life of the mother and her unborn child. Pregnancy is a miracle, and every life, beginning at conception, is a gift from God. But we don't live in a perfect world, and we have to face that things can go wrong during pregnancy. This bill would affirm that, in that event, Wisconsin's laws protect the medical professional, the mother's life, and the baby.

Senate Bill 344

Under current law, people filing Wisconsin income taxes can claim a \$700 tax exemption for each dependent. Thirty-one percent of all filers with a net tax liability will claim this exemption for 2023, with over 1.5 million such claims expected. This is a simple way our current laws financially benefit families through our tax code. This bill increases that exemption from \$700 to \$1,000. The Department of Revenue estimates this change will benefit Wisconsin families \$19.5 million annually.

A child's life begins at conception. We know, too, that expenses for families begin long before birth. Under this bill, a claimant can submit proof of a heartbeat with their taxes and be eligible to claim the dependent exemption. This policy change, which acknowledges the importance of all children, is estimated by the Department of Revenue to benefit Wisconsin families \$700,000 annually.

Senate Bill 345

Pregnancy Resource Centers provide critical services such as crisis pregnancy counseling, unwed mother support, abstinence programs, care of mothers and babies, and safe haven housing. These centers have also provided post-abortion healing. There are more than 60 of these centers throughout the state, and I am proud to say that I have some great ones in my district. These Pregnancy Resource Centers are phenomenal assets to our community, open to anyone who finds themselves worried or anxious about an expected or unexpected, planned or unplanned, or wanted or unwanted pregnancy. There is already a mechanism in place to financially support these centers without any overhead costs – through the Choose Life license plate fund administered by Choose Life Wisconsin. This bill would provide an annual grant to that organization for the purposes of better supporting these amazing resource centers for even more families in the future.

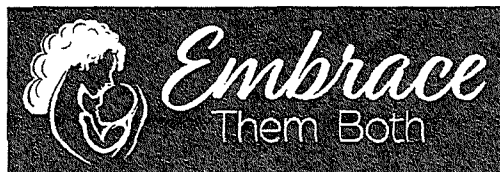
Senate Bill 346

Private adoptions can cost in the tens of thousands of dollars. Families considering adoption sometimes stop the process or withdraw from consideration because they cannot afford it. This is wrong – we should continue to support all families (both birth families and adoptive families) for whom adoption is their path.

There are a few organizations in Wisconsin that offer financial assistance to adoptive families once they have reached a certain point in the process. For those curious to learn more, a list can be found at the website for the Coalition for Children, Youth & Families. Again, in an effort to reduce overhead, this bill creates a competitive grant program to be awarded to an organization already operating a financial assistance program to supplement their work.

Under the bill, families can receive up to \$10,000 to defray adoption expenses. The bill allocates \$5 million for the competitive grant program and limits the amount that can be used for administrative expenses. Furthermore, to ensure this is lifting up Wisconsin birth and adoptive families, this grant is available for Wisconsin families who are adopting Wisconsin children.

It has been a great honor and uplifting experience to work on bills that reinforce the sanctity of life and the dignity of the whole family. These bills enter a political arena fraught with deep emotions. However, I ask that you all step back from those swirling winds and examine these bills for what they represent on their own. No matter where you stand on the issue of abortion, these bills simply provide clarity and support for growing families. These bills are about mothers, children, fathers, and families. Please join me in supporting this Embrace Them Both package of bills.



KAREN HURD

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 68TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Senate Bill 344, 345, 346
Public Testimony
Senate Licensing, Constitution and Federalism Committee
September 19, 2023

Thank you, Chair Jacque and members of the committee for holding this hearing on Senate Bills 344, 345, and 346.

The strength of Wisconsin is dependent upon the strength of its people. Long known to legislators is the importance of the family and especially the children that belong to those families. The future of Wisconsin will be shaped and guided by not only us but most importantly the children who follow us as they grow into adult Wisconsinites.

The statutes of Wisconsin clearly reflect the intent of lawmakers that have gone before us. In Chapter 765 the statute says that it is the intent of the law “to promote the stability and best interests of marriage and the family.”

SB 344 provides an income tax credit for dependent children which includes unborn children which underscores Wisconsin’s commitment to families and children. By recognizing a child in the womb as a viable person demonstrates our support of **ALL** children born and unborn.

SB 345 provides funding for pregnancy resource centers which gives parents an opportunity to learn about resources available to them. As I have walked through my life, it has been my constant observation that decisions are made without adequate knowledge. I quote Benjamin Franklin, “A nation of well-informed men who have been taught to know and prize the rights which God has given them cannot be enslaved. It is in the region of ignorance that tyranny begins.” Pregnancy resource centers help inform our people.

SB 346 establishes a grant program to provide financial assistance to prospective adoptive families. When I was campaigning for the seat which I now hold, I asked at the doors what issues were most important. Helping prospective adoptive families was one of the issues that surfaced over and over again. Adoption is a means by which we can help our children and the parents who want to increase their family through the adoptive process.

Mr. Chairman, I fully support these bills. They help make our future generations Wisconsin-strong.



TO: Chair Jacque, Vice-Chair Bradley, and Honorable Members of the Senate
Committee on Licensing, Constitution and Federalism

FROM: Ragen Shapiro, Legislative Advisor
Wendy Henderson, Administrator, Division of Safety and Permanence

DATE: September 19, 2023

SUBJECT: 2023 Senate Bill 346

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) appreciates the attention and concern the Committee on Licensing, Constitution and Federalism has for children and families across Wisconsin. DCF would offer the following recommendations and potential areas for clarification in Senate Bill 346.

With respect to section 3, page 3, lines 5-6 of the bill ("Financial assistance awarded from the grant may only be awarded to or on behalf of families in this state who are adopting children from this state"), DCF would encourage clarification to be added to the bill that the financial assistance may be awarded to children whose adoption occurs in tribal court and/or pursuant to a tribal code (including pursuant to provisions in tribal codes related to customary adoptions). In addition, for families who are adopting through tribal court, some tribal codes confer jurisdiction over children outside of the boundaries of the state of Wisconsin. DCF would encourage clarification to be added to the bill that all children who are adopted in the tribal court of a tribe located in Wisconsin would be eligible for financial assistance under the bill.

With respect to section 3, page 3, lines 9-11 of the bill ("The grant recipient must impose conditions on the financial assistance it awards from the grant, including that only families that have reached a certain stage in the adoption process are eligible..."), DCF recommends that language be added to clarify that DCF is responsible for setting the parameters for eligibility and the conditions for receipt of the financial assistance for the grant recipients. This would include clarifying that DCF is responsible for defining the "certain stage" at which the grant recipient would be deemed eligible as well as allowable/unallowable costs for recipients. DCF regularly sets parameters for subrecipients and clarifying that DCF has these responsibilities under the bill would avoid ambiguity in the interpretation of the bill and ensure consistency in the administration of the grant.

Finally, DCF would flag the potential interaction between the proposed grants in this bill and the existing Adoption Assistance program administered through DCF. It should be noted that current Wisconsin adoptive families, including those that complete private adoptions, who meet eligibility requirements, are able to receive a one-time reimbursement of adoption-related expenses up to \$2,000. Under federal regulations, the one-time reimbursement cannot be provided for costs incurred by adoptive parents that are reimbursed from other sources. See 45 CFR 1356.41(g). DCF would recommend clarifying in the legislation that the funds provided

Recipient Name
Month Day, Year
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through the grant must be used on costs that the family has not and will not receive Adoption Assistance reimbursement for.

The Department would like to thank the Committee for their attention to this matter and their support for children and families across the state of Wisconsin.



**Gracie Skogman, Legislative Director, Wisconsin Right to Life
Senate Committee on Licensing, Constitution and Federalism
SB 300, SB 343, SB 344, SB 345, SB 346
Tuesday, September 19th, 2023**

Thank you, Chairman Jaque and members of the committee, for your time today. My name is Gracie Skogman, and I am the Legislative Director of Wisconsin Right to Life, testifying in favor of SB 300, SB 343, SB 344, SB 345, and SB 346.

As pro-life advocates, we care deeply about protecting children and their mothers, to ensure that both are offered comprehensive care and support. Through our advocacy, we work with the many Pregnancy Resource Centers in our state that provide medical care and support to women during pregnancy and beyond, often meeting women in their moments of most need. We also hear firsthand from potential adoptive parents, regarding the financial struggles they may face when hoping to adopt.

Women in Wisconsin are deserving of comprehensive support and resources through pregnancy and beyond, and this legislation takes another step towards achieving that goal. Additionally, families in our state who are looking to adopt or would like to choose life for their children deserve to be fully supported. This is fundamental to creating a culture of life in our state.

Additionally, this bill package provides necessary clarity that medically necessary and lifesaving procedures, such as treatment for an ectopic pregnancy, do not constitute an abortion. In a culture that increasingly refers to abortion as "healthcare," it is a vital reminder that abortion is the opposite, as healthcare is focused on the saving of life, and abortion takes innocent human life.

Wisconsin Right to Life urge support of this legislation, to further create a culture of life and support for both preborn children and mothers in our state.

Thank you very much for your time,
Gracie Skogman



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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 346
PUBLIC HEARING – COMMITTEE ON LICENSING, CONSTITUTION AND FEDERALISM
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023
JACK HOOGENDYK, LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY DIRECTOR
WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION

Thank you, Chairman Jacque and committee members, for the opportunity to testify regarding Senate Bill 346.

I am Jack Hoogendyk, Legislative and Policy Director for Wisconsin Family Action. Wisconsin Family Action supports Senate Bill 346. At Wisconsin Family Action, one of the things we advocate for is the nuclear family. Adoption is an essential part of growing nuclear families. Anytime a child is in need of a family, or a couple is looking to add to their family, adoption is a good option.

Estimates from the National Adoption Network are that somewhere between 8,000 and 15,000 couples in Wisconsin are waiting to adopt a child.¹

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Child Welfare website, reports the typical cost of an independent infant adoption can easily exceed \$25,000.²

We applaud Senator Quinn for introducing this bill which will appropriate \$5,000,000 in the current biennium for a grant program that would award up to \$10,000 per eligible Wisconsin family to adopt a child in Wisconsin. This grant program is exclusively for private adoptions and requires the Department of Children and Families to grant a qualified agency the funds, and the agency then distributes the grants to qualified families.

This legislation provides an incentive for families to adopt as it will significantly lower the barrier of the expense of adopting a child, thereby providing more children a forever family.

For these reasons, we support SB 346 and urge its passage. Thank you.

¹ [US Adoption Statistics | Adoption Network](#)

² [Planning for Adoption: Knowing the Costs and Resources \(childwelfare.gov\)](#)



ProLife
LOVE. FOR LIFE. WI.

**Testimony in Support of SB 343, SB 344, SB 345, & SB 346 (Embrace Them Both)
Senate Committee on Licensing, Constitution and Federalism
By Matt Sande, Director of Legislation**

September 19, 2023

Good afternoon, Chairman Jacque and Committee members. My name is Matt Sande and I serve as director of legislation for Pro-Life Wisconsin. Thank you for this opportunity to express our support of a comprehensive bill package, entitled *Embrace Them Both*, that protects and supports pregnant mothers and their preborn children.

Pro-Life Wisconsin is proud to advocate for these bills that, together, maintain and strengthen our current law abortion ban and provide the necessary resources for both moms and babies to survive and thrive in a post-Roe Wisconsin. We thank Senator Quinn and Assembly co-authors Gae Magnafici, Amanda Nedweski, Donna Rozar, and Patrick Snyder for their vision and compassion in introducing this life-affirming bill package.

Growing Wisconsin's population and finding ways to attract and keep talent in the state to increase the tax base is a bipartisan concern. Abortion will always have the effect of decreasing the population. This legislation provides attractive incentives for families to not only choose life but to choose Wisconsin as a state that protects human life and encourages the growth of healthy families.

The *Embrace Them Both* legislation does the following:

Senate Bill 343 (Quinn/Magnafici) clarifies that medical procedures intended to save the life of a pregnant mother, and not intended to kill her preborn baby, are not abortions. Such procedures include medical emergency early induction or C-section, removal of a miscarriage, or removal of an ectopic, molar, or anembryonic pregnancy. Abortion, statutorily defined as the *intentional* killing of a preborn living human being, is never medically necessary to save the life or improve the health of the mother.

To be clear, Wisconsin's statutory definitions of abortion center on the intention of the actor. Wisconsin Statute 940.04 reads "Any person, other than the mother, who *intentionally* destroys the life of an unborn child is guilty of a Class H felony." And as described in Wisconsin Statute 253.10(2)(a), "abortion" means "the use of an instrument, medicine, drug or other substance or device with intent to terminate the pregnancy of a woman known to be pregnant or for whom there is reason to believe that she may be pregnant and *with intent other than to increase the probability of a live birth*, to preserve the life or health of the infant after live birth or to remove a dead fetus."

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However, following the U.S Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs* in June 2022, much confusion has ensued about what medical procedures are permitted or proscribed under our current abortion ban. Wisconsin Statute 940.04 contains a massive loophole – a broad and undefined “life-of-the-mother” exception – through which to drive abortion on demand. The term “therapeutic abortion” in the statute is not defined.

Senate 343 provides definitional clarity in Wisconsin abortion law. In s.940.04, it does so by eliminating the therapeutic abortion exception and specifying that the statute’s abortion prohibitions do not apply to a physician’s performance of a medical procedure or treatment designed or intended to prevent the death of a pregnant woman and not designed or intended to kill her unborn child, which results in injury to or death of the woman’s unborn child when the physician makes reasonable medical efforts under the circumstances to preserve both the life of the woman and the life of her unborn child in a manner consistent with conventional medical practice. Under the bill, such medical procedures or treatments immune from prosecution include an early induction or cesarean section performed due to a medical emergency or the removal of a miscarriage or an ectopic, anembryonic, or molar pregnancy.

Senate Bill 343 provides the same definitional clarification in s.253.10(2)(a), a definition of abortion used in numerous Wisconsin abortion regulations over the last thirty years, including our voluntary and informed consent for abortion law, prohibitions on funding for abortion-related activities, limitations on the prescription and use of abortion-inducing drugs, and our 20-week abortion ban.

Equal care for mother and unborn baby in a health emergency is the antithesis of intentionally killing a preborn, living human being. Medical emergency early inductions and cesarean sections seek to *separate* baby from mom in a concerted effort to save both lives. They are not legal abortions. Removal of a miscarriage, or the loss of an unborn baby before 24 weeks gestation, is not an abortion. Sadly, and obviously, the preborn baby is already dead. Removal of an ectopic pregnancy, where a fertilized ovum lodges in the fallopian tube and grows there, is not an abortion. The damaged portion of the tube containing the embryonic baby may be removed where it is clearly necessary to prevent rupture and save the mother’s life. Such an operation is justified by the principle of double effect, because the death of the child is an unintended effect of an operation independently justified to save the mother’s life. It does not involve the intentional killing of an unborn child. Someday, medical science may be capable of transferring the embedded embryo directly into the uterine wall.

Legally, the above-described medical operations are not considered abortions and have never been prosecuted in this country, even when the mother’s life was not immediately threatened. But to remove *any* doubt, Senate Bill 343 is needed, and we strongly support its passage. Physicians must make their best effort to save both patients, giving equal care to mother and child. We are fortunate to have with us today medical experts in the field of obstetrics who will help us better understand the difference between intentional killing and equal care.

I would like to share some quotes from the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG) concerning abortion and the mother’s life:

Abortion is the purposeful killing of the unborn in the termination of a pregnancy. AAPLOG opposes abortion. When extreme medical emergencies that threaten the life of the mother arise (chorioamnionitis or HELLP syndrome could be examples), AAPLOG believes in “treatment to save the mother’s life,” including premature delivery if that is indicated — obviously with the patient’s informed consent. This is NOT “abortion to save the mother’s life.” We are treating two patients, the mother and the baby, and every reasonable attempt to save the baby’s life would also be a part of our medical intervention. We acknowledge that, in some such instances, the baby would be too premature to survive.

[\(https://aaplog.org/what-is-aaplogs-position-on-abortion-to-save-the-life-of-the-mother/\)](https://aaplog.org/what-is-aaplogs-position-on-abortion-to-save-the-life-of-the-mother/)

AAPLOG urges its colleagues in Obstetrics and Gynecology to cultivate a life-affirming practice of the specialty, in which both the maternal and fetal patients are treated with human dignity and respect. [...] Elective induced abortions (performed purely for family planning) are medically unnecessary, because of their elective nature. However, maternal-fetal separation may be offered ethically in circumstances of maternal life or health endangerment, if that threat is proportional to the peril faced by the fetus or neonate at birth.

AAPLOG recognizes that there are certain serious maternal medical conditions which worsen in pregnancy [...] In the rare circumstances where maternal and fetal risk are proportionate, AAPLOG supports several ways of iatrogenically ending pregnancy. These ways largely include induction and cesarean section, which do not dismember the fetus. When maternal-fetal separation occurs in the setting of expected neonatal death, comfort care can and should be employed for the neonate born alive.

AAPLOG expresses significant concern with the inappropriate overuse of ‘maternal health’ when the true reason for the termination of pregnancy is psychosocial stress, fear of consequences of pregnancy, discomforts of pregnancy, lifestyle changes required by pregnancy, or pure autonomy. This is not medical necessity; rather, it is assertion of one human organism’s power over another because of social problems that should be addressed in other ways.

[\(AAPLOG Practice Guideline, Number 10, pages 10,11, August 2022\)](#)

Which leads us to the remaining three bills in the *Embrace Them Both* package that, in a very practical, meaningful, and life-affirming way, work to mitigate social problems that tempt fathers and mothers to procure abortions. The bills do so by assisting pregnant mothers financially, medically, educationally, socially, emotionally, and materially. Importantly, the bills are a hand up, not a handout and will go far towards helping growing families achieve stability and self-sufficiency.

Senate Bill 344 (Quinn/Snyder) increases the current state income tax exemption for dependents from \$700 to \$1,000 and extends the coverage to preborn children whose fetal heartbeat has been detected. Designating the preborn child as a “dependent” provides substantial tax savings to growing families and recognizes him/her as a human “person” deserving of public benefits. The tax exemption may not be claimed for a pregnancy that ends in abortion, as defined in s.253.10(2)(a).

Senate Bill 345 (Quinn/Nedweski) requires the Department of Health Services to award an ongoing \$1 million annual grant to Choose Life Wisconsin, Inc. to assist the non-profit organization in providing grants to pregnancy resource centers (PRCs) across Wisconsin. Since 2017, "Choose Life" specialty license plates have been available to Wisconsin motorists. With over 2,375 of these plates on cars in Wisconsin, sales have resulted in over \$275,000 being granted to over twenty-five Wisconsin PRCs in five years. We have with us today a long-time executive director of a PRC in southeastern Wisconsin who will describe the multitude of benefits her organization provides to vulnerable mothers and fathers, including free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds, prenatal and parenting classes, STD testing and education, family planning and education, pregnancy counseling, adoption support, abortion pill reversal, and miscarriage and stillbirth support.

In partnership with our statewide pregnancy resource centers, Pro-Life Wisconsin compassionately listens to women and assists them in navigating pregnancy, parenting, and adoption. We reject the lie that abortion is a legitimate solution and offer ways to assist moms in their most immediate need. The demand for pre-natal and post-natal care is high, and we need to meet that demand by supporting and growing Wisconsin's statewide network of pregnancy resource centers and even expanding their role to include the full range of medical care for pregnant women. Senate Bill 345 will substantially aid in this effort.

Senate Bill 346 (Quinn/Rozar) requires the Department of Children and Families to administer a competitive grant program that provides \$5 million biennially to an adoption organization that provides financial assistance to parents seeking adoptions. The costs of adoption can create a chasm that is unbridgeable between children who need families and the families who want them so desperately. The creation of this grant program will open the door of opportunity for children and families in a new way. With the average cost of a private adoption exceeding \$40,000, we must do more, publicly and privately, to make adoption affordable for families. Assisting prospective adoptive parents with a \$10,000 award will help many on the financial fence move forward with this loving gift.

In sum, *Embrace Them Both* provides real solutions for Wisconsin women and families. Pro-Life Wisconsin is urging the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly to pass the *Embrace Them Both* bill package as we work to build a culture of life and true prosperity in Wisconsin. We encourage Committee members to recommend Senate Bills 343, 344, 345, and 346 to the full Senate. Again, thank you for your consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions committee members may have for me.