



## Mis-Informed Consent Bill (SB 138)

**Women expect their physicians to provide them with sound information about all medical options and treatments. The Misinformed Consent Bill threatens the doctor-patient relationship by mandating that doctors who perform abortions tell women inflammatory, misleading, unproven statements about the abortion procedure. It allows politicians to act as physicians, and removes a physician's ethical obligation to provide accurate, comprehensive information to patients.**

### **The Misinformed Consent Bill makes Assertions that are NOT Supported by the Scientific & Medical Community**

- The bill falsely claims that the scientific community is in agreement regarding the development of fetal perception.
  - Currently, there is no consensus in the scientific community about fetal perception.
  - There is no conclusive scientific evidence regarding fetal perception.
- Only one individual, Dr. K.J.S. Anand, has reported findings of pain perception early in fetal life and his claims are based on research done solely on neonates (infants aged one week or more).
  - Testifying in federal court last year, Dr. Anand was unable to cite *any* other studies, articles, or other experts that directly supported his conclusions.
  - This study is approximately 20 years old and the information in it is not new. It is being revived now as a tool for the anti-choice movement to further coerce and shame women who choose to have an abortion.

### **The Misinformed Consent Bill is Coercive and Inflammatory**

- **The language in the bill is grotesque and incendiary.**
  - The terms and descriptions in the bill are not used by the medical community and originate from ideological groups who do not care about women's health care or supporting family planning programs that actually reduce the rates of unintended pregnancies.

### **The Misinformed Consent Bill Violates the Doctor-Patient Relationship**

- **The bill mandates that physicians give patients false information**
  - This bill intrudes upon the doctor-patient relationship by eliminating a physician's authority to make specific recommendations for individual women, putting some women's health at risk.
  - The bill authorizes government intrusion into a physician's relationship with patients by requiring physicians to provide medically inaccurate information to all women contemplating an abortion.



- **Only 1.4% of abortions occur after 20 weeks, and in many of these cases, the woman is ending a pregnancy because something went terribly wrong and her life or health is threatened.**
  - Women in these tragic situations would be required to hear the sensational language encompassed in the bill that is not based on a scientific consensus.
  - This is cruel and inhumane; and again it demonstrates the bill's utter lack of concern about women's health care.

### **The Misinformed Consent Bill is About Politics, Not Informed Consent**

- This legislation is unnecessary because Wisconsin already has stringent informed consent laws.
  - Physicians must inform patients of all viable medical modes of treatment and about the benefits and risks of such treatment. Wis. Stat. §448.30.
  - Physicians who perform abortions are required to inform a woman about the probable anatomical structures of the fetus prior to the abortion.
- This bill is not designed to provide women with more information; rather it is designed to coerce women and undermine the personal, private, medical decision to terminate a pregnancy.
  - The language is inflammatory, ideological and misleading.
  - The medical community does not accept the terms used in this legislation. The only groups who use such terms are special interest groups dedicated to the elimination of safe, legal abortion.
  - The sponsor of a similar federal bill, on which the Wisconsin bill is based, recently told the media that his intent for the bill was to force women not to choose abortion.
- If the sponsors of this bill were really concerned about true informed consent, they would join with women's health supporters in emphatically encouraging further legitimate research by the medical community into the area of fetal development.