



Testimony
**HB 1267 - Clarifying and expanding the rights and obligations of state registered
domestic partners and other couples related to parentage**
Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections
March 15, 2011

Senator Pridemore and members of the Committee, my name is John Geis. I am the Legislative Director for the Washington State Catholic Conference, which represents the Catholic Bishops of Washington State on issues of public policy. The Catholic Conference respectfully urges you to oppose the passage of HB 1267.

The Catholic Church teaches that all human life is sacred. The dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. Human dignity is to be respected and the common good fostered. While the common good embraces all, those who are weak, vulnerable and most in need deserve preferential concern.

The Catholic Conference opposes this bill because it has the potential to exploit women and children. Disadvantaged women may be pressured by the lure of money to “rent” their bodies in a minimally regulated service contract or may even be forced to by unscrupulous persons. Why would we make this legal?

This bill also makes children a commodity to be purchased for a price. As a society we have determined that the potential for abuse is grave when there is a financial gain for selling body parts. Thus, human organs are donated, so why change the law to allow payment for a child? Do we really want to legalize what appears to be the selling of children?

Please oppose E2SHB 1267 as it is not good or wise public policy for Washington State.

Thank you for your consideration.