



Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin
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Hearing Testimony Regarding Senate Bill 628

December 18, 2025

Dear Esteemed Members of the Committee on Natural Resources, Veterans, and Military Affairs:

My name is Kacy Kostiuk. I'm director of the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) that engages in advocacy for policies that promote peace, justice, and care for creation. We represent the coordinated public policy witness of the ELCA in Wisconsin, bringing Lutheran voices to statewide legislative issues.

On behalf of the Lutheran Office for Public Policy, I'm here to testify in **support of Senate Bill 628**, which would require the DNR to notify local health officials when they have identified groundwater contamination, giving local health officials the tools they need to notify impacted people.

Approximately one-third of Wisconsinites get their drinking water from private wells, and everyone deserves access to clean drinking water. Water contamination can cause lifelong harm – from developmental delays in children to cancer and chronic illness.

Lutherans have a commitment to love and seek the wellbeing of our neighbors. It is for this reason that I ask you to support SB-628. We understand health to be a communal responsibility; we cannot be healthy by ourselves. Rather, we have a responsibility to help each other attain good health through our ways of living together. In this way, health is a shared endeavor, and this bill is a positive step toward that shared cooperative effort.

We ask you to support SB-628 so that Wisconsinites have an opportunity to learn about potential contaminants in their drinking water and take steps to ensure their families are safe and healthy.

Thank you, and blessings upon you and your work.

Sincerely,

Kacy Kostiuk

Director, Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (LOPPW)