

Wisconsin Right to Life

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For immediate release: Wednesday, January 25, 2006

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WISCONSIN RIGHT TO LIFE ASKS FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT FOR EXPEDITED ACTION IN WISCONSIN RIGHT TO LIFE v. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Early Decision Needed in Election Year

Wisconsin Right to Life has asked the District of Columbia District Court to expedite its case in *WRTL v. FEC*. This court had earlier dismissed the case on the basis that the Supreme Court in *McConnell v. FEC* had precluded all lawsuits based on the application of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform law. The Supreme Court on January 23 removed this obstacle by unanimously deciding that as-applied challenges to McCain-Feingold are valid. The case was remanded back to the District Court.

“Throughout 2006, there are 30 day blackout periods before each state’s federal primary elections beginning with the Texas primary on March 7,” stated Barbara Lyons, Executive Director of Wisconsin Right to Life. **“Congress is in session throughout most of this year, meaning that the creation of a grassroots lobbying exception which we have requested would benefit groups that lobby across the country. We have made the District Court aware of this scenario.”**

Both parties have already briefed the District Court on whether the Constitution requires a grassroots lobbying exception to the prohibition on corporate funding of “electioneering communications.” Wisconsin Right to Life’s motion asks the trial court to reinstate the cross-motions for summary judgment, to permit each side to file one supplemental brief within ten days, and to expeditiously decide the case.

James Bopp, Jr., lead counsel for Wisconsin Right to Life, commented: **“The issue the Supreme Court remanded has already been fully briefed, so there is no reason to delay deciding it. The Supreme Court recognized the need for expedition by ruling in less than a week, and the trial court should similarly expedite the case. The nation needs guidance on this critical issue of self-government by the people.”**