



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Women's Rights Vanish in Wisconsin

MADISON – Representative Melissa Sargent (D-Madison) released the following statement after Republicans in the Wisconsin State Assembly passed three bills restricting women's health care access, which take our state's contraception and abortion laws back forty years.

"Today, we again saw Republicans abusing their majority power to trample the rights of the minority. These anti-woman bills were fast-tracked through the legislature with extremely limited public input, and SB206; the 'forced ultrasound bill' did not even receive a vote in an Assembly committee. The people's voice was silenced when it should have been heard to guide the legislature away from this extreme social agenda.

"Republican policies have put Wisconsin's economic performance and economic prospects near the bottom of all states. Rather than dealing with our jobs crisis today, the Wisconsin GOP continued its march backwards in time to a day when women were not thought to be qualified to make their own health care decisions.

"I firmly believe that in the 21st century, we should all realize that women can and should be empowered to make personal decisions regarding their own bodies. Each woman, not politicians, should have the right to make these personal decisions for herself.

"After the horrible and abrupt end to debate we saw in the state senate yesterday, Assembly Republicans fell in lock-step voting down each Democratic amendment on a party-line vote.

"These bills are political, discriminatory and an unfair attack on the women of Wisconsin. SHAME on the GOP for inserting themselves into the private, medical decisions between a woman and her doctor.

"I call on every woman in Wisconsin to stand up and say 'My body, my choice'."

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