



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**ROBYN VINING**

14TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

MILWAUKEE • WAUWATOSA • BROOKFIELD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Rep. Robyn Vining Holds Press Conference on Healthy Women, Healthy Babies Budget Initiatives**

MADISON - Today, State Representative Robyn Vining (D-Wauwatosa), Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes, and maternal and infant health experts and advocates held a press conference in Wauwatosa, alongside the Wauwatosa Mayor and the Wauwatosa Health Department, in support of the Healthy Women, Healthy Babies initiatives in the proposed budget. Rep. Vining issued the following statement:

“Last week, the legislature unanimously passed my bipartisan, bicameral resolution to honor May as Wisconsin Motherhood Month -- a resolution that commits to look seriously at the devastating maternal mortality rates we face here in Wisconsin. We are here to face this crisis, and the infant mortality crisis, with what I like to call, ‘Wisconsin resolve’.

Thank you to Amy Dean, Shonita Roach, and Dr. Kathy Hartke, who joined us today to talk about their experiences and why these crucial healthcare initiatives matter to women, babies, and families in the 14th District and throughout our state. It’s also important that we keep the communities in this conversation -- so that’s why we took the conversation to the community.

The People’s Budget provides \$28 million to the Healthy Women, Healthy Babies programs to increase healthcare access and coverage and reduce health disparities. This funding can only be made possible by accepting Medicaid expansion. I implore my distinguished colleagues in the legislature, advocates, and citizens of this state, to keep fighting for Medicaid expansion. This is a fight worth having, because these lives are worth fighting for. It is the fiscally responsible decision, and above all, the morally responsible decision.

Our federal tax dollars are subsidizing other states, instead of Wisconsin’s mothers and infants, and we have the opportunity to bring our money home -- without raising our taxes. We must accept the Medicaid expansion so we have access to launch programs like Healthy Women, Healthy Babies. Women and infants are dying, but we have the power to end these crises. There are women and infants relying on us to make the right decision, and I’m calling on us today to do just that.”

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