



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Representative Snodgrass, Senator Agard Introduce Bills to Stop “Stealth” Sexual Assault and the sending of Unsolicited Lewd Images**

(APPLETON) – Today Representative Lee Snodgrass (D-Appleton) and Senator Melissa Agard (D-Madison) circulated LRB-5288 and LRB-5338 which would create a civil course of action for “stealth” sexual assault and provide a penalty for individuals sending unsolicited lewd images digitally.

Representative Snodgrass released the following statement:

“Consent has broader implications than we have come to understand and these bills address two problematic violations of sexual consent that have become increasingly common and can have deeply disturbing and life changing consequences. These bills address the issue of permission and consent and provide a legal framework when that has been violated.

“LRB-5288 creates a civil course of action for individuals to hold those accountable who non-consensually remove or tamper with a sexually protective device during intercourse without the knowledge of the partner. Consequences of such actions can include unplanned pregnancy and STI’s. In a time when abortion rights are precarious, we must do what we can to provide a legal course of action for someone of any gender whose consent has been violated through intentional and nonconsensual removal or tampering with a reproductive device.

“Further, with digital interactions and online/app dating as the primary communication in modern relationships, we have seen an increase in unsolicited, sexually explicit images sent without provocation or consent, often to minors via ‘air drop’ technology in public places. LRB-5388 addresses unsolicited lewd pictures being shared via electronic means. Sending unsolicited, graphic sexual images electronically can be extremely violating receiving those unwanted images for a variety of reasons. This bill provides a deterrent for such images to be sent without consent and discourages sexually predatory behavior.”

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