

For Immediate Release
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Representative Hurd Votes on Birth Control Access

Madison – State Representative Karen Hurd (R-Fall Creek) voted in favor of legislation that would authorize pharmacists to prescribe certain contraceptives.

Under current state law, women can only obtain birth control through a prescription from a physician or an advanced practice nurse. With increasing access to contraceptives, evidence shows it plays a large role in reducing the number of abortions.

“There is a growing demand from the public as well as medical institutions to allow a pharmacy to issue over-the-counter or behind-the-counter birth control pills without a doctor’s prescription. This consideration has come into sharp focus since the US Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. AB 176 would allow pharmacists to prescribe and dispense birth control pills without a prescription from a medical professional. This allows a woman to prevent a pregnancy through the taking of the birth control pill or the use of a hormonal contraceptive patch; and therefore, in an unwanted pregnancy, avoid the more dangerous procedure of an abortion as well as the moral dilemma of taking a child’s life while in utero.”

There are currently 27 states that have passed or are in the process of receiving birth control prescriptions from a pharmacy.

The bill now heads to the state Senate for consideration.

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The 68th Assembly District includes portions of Eau Claire, Chippewa, and Clark Counties including the communities of Altoona, Fall Creek, Augusta, Fairchild, Greenwood, Owen, Withee, Thorp, Cadott, Boyd, Stanley, the Town of Lafayette, and parts of Eau Claire.