

For Immediate Release
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Rep Hurd Responds to Governor Evers and Democrats' Bill to Allow Abortion on Demand

The Governor and Democrats' proposed bill would repeal the 1849 Wisconsin statute that bans abortion except in the circumstance to save the life of the mother. The repealing of the statute would allow abortion-on-demand.

There is, perhaps, no other issue that is so deeply emotional as that of abortion. Because of this intensity of sentiment, proponents on both sides have a tendency to drive a seemingly unmovable stake in the ground. The polarization that the issue of abortion had made between the citizens of Wisconsin is unfortunate. Instead, we must work together to accomplish two things: 1) the rights of the woman carrying the child and 2) the rights of the unborn child.

The repealing of the 1849 statute only addresses the rights of the woman. The rights of the unborn child are ignored. A better way forward is the bill that Assembly Republicans introduced March 16, 2023 that seeks to update Wisconsin's abortion law to match the will of the people of Wisconsin. The Republican bill proposes to allow exceptions for rape and incest during the first trimester. It also would allow for exceptions "due to a serious risk of death of the pregnant woman or of substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function of the woman" and "in any circumstance in which the fetus has no chance of survival ... that makes survival of the fetus outside of the uterus not possible."

Marquette Law School polling in November 2022 found that 84% of respondents—including 73% of Republicans—think abortion should be legal for victims of rape or incest. This poll matches that of my own findings of the people of the 68th Assembly district—that 85% would like to see an abortion ban but with the exceptions for rape, incest, and the health of the mother.

I see the Republican bill that was proposed last Wednesday as a "Save as Many Babies as We Can" bill. Although I am personally opposed to abortion, history shows us that a hardline stance not allowing for rape, incest, or the health of the mother results in court cases such as *Roe v. Wade* that allowed abortion-on-demand for half a century where 18 babies died from abortion each day in Wisconsin. We cannot allow history to repeat itself. I will oppose the Democrats' bill that calls for the repeal of the 1849 abortion law and represent the majority of the people of Wisconsin who want to update the abortion law to include exceptions.

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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.