



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

\*\*\*Media Release\*\*\*

*For Immediate Release*  
March 8, 2021

Contact: Rep. Katrina Shankland, (608) 267-9649  
Sen. LaTonya Johnson, (608) 266-2500

## **Rep. Shankland and Sen. Johnson Celebrate International Women’s Day by Introducing Bipartisan 12-Month Contraceptive Care Act**

MADISON – Today, Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) and Sen. LaTonya Johnson (D-Milwaukee), along with Rep. Ron Tusler (R-Harrison), introduced their bipartisan 12-Month Contraceptive Care Act. This legislation would allow people in Wisconsin to fill their birth control prescriptions for up to 12 months at a time after receiving an initial 3-month supply. Wisconsin health insurance plans currently only cover prescriptions of birth control for 30 or 90 days.

“At some point in their lifetime, almost all women will depend on birth control for their health or family planning,” said Rep. Shankland. “But consistency is key when it comes to effectiveness. There is no medical reason why someone should only receive a monthly supply of their birth control – and requiring people to return to their pharmacy every month or every few months is an unnecessary barrier for so many, especially those who live in rural areas, serve in the military, or are survivors of intimate partner violence.”

The most common causes of unwanted pregnancies are lack of access to reliable contraception and inconsistent use. Research has shown that dispensing a 12-month supply of birth control at one time reduces the odds of unintended pregnancy by 30% and reduces abortion rates by 46%. It may also lower costs for health insurers by reducing the number of pregnancy tests and pregnancies.

“This common-sense proposal will strengthen women's health and provide people with the security and certainty that comes with consistent and effective birth control use, improving lives and reducing unintended pregnancies across our state,” said Sen. Johnson. “I hope this bill will receive support from all of those who advocate for healthy women and strong Wisconsin families.”

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