



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Media Release

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Rep. Shankland and Sen. Harris Dodd Introduce 12-Month Contraceptive Care Act

MADISON – Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) and Sen. Nikiya Harris Dodd (D-Milwaukee) introduced the 12-Month Contraceptive Care Act today, legislation that would allow women to fill their birth control prescriptions for 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.

“Almost all women have relied on birth control at some point in their lifetime for their health or family planning,” said Rep. Shankland. “But for birth control to be effective, consistency is key. Requiring women to return to their pharmacy every month or every few months is an unnecessary barrier, especially for women in rural areas or with limited transportation options.”

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.

“Many mothers in my district work multiple jobs,” said Sen. Harris Dodd. “Between coordinating school schedules and work schedules, trips to the pharmacy can be time-consuming and burdensome. This bill allows mothers the opportunity to access birth control without unnecessary extra visits to the pharmacy.”

“There is no medical reason why a woman should only receive a monthly supply of her birth control,” continued Rep. Shankland. “The 12-Month Contraceptive Care Act would strengthen women's health and provide women with the security and peace of mind that comes with consistent and effective birth control use.”

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