



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sen. Mark Spreitzer, Rep. Sue Conley, and Rep. Clinton Anderson introduce bill to ban child marriage in Wisconsin

MADISON – Today, Senator Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit), Representative Sue Conley (D-Janesville), and Representative Clinton Anderson (D-Beloit) introduced bipartisan legislation to ban child marriage in Wisconsin with Representative Jimmy Anderson (D-Fitchburg) and Senator Jeff Smith (D-Brunswick).

Senator Mark Spreitzer:

“I am proud to introduce this legislation with my colleagues to end child marriage. Last year, Representative Sue Conley, Representative Clinton Anderson, and I met with members of the Zonta Club of Janesville and other Zonta clubs for an in-depth discussion on the negative impacts of child marriage in Wisconsin. The data is clear: the marriages this bill would outlaw are overwhelmingly between minor children and adults and have clear gender disparities, with the vast majority involving minor brides marrying adult men. Combined with research showing that child marriages have higher rates of domestic violence, it is crystal clear that child marriage must end in Wisconsin.”

Representative Sue Conley:

“I deeply appreciated hearing from local advocates who understand how important it is that we stop child marriage in Wisconsin. Marriage is one of the most significant personal and legal commitments that a person can make, and state law must recognize that no child should be entering into such a consequential, legally binding contract. While child marriages continue to decrease each year, they are still happening because our statutes allow it. We can and should ban child marriage in our state.”

Representative Clinton Anderson:

“We must prohibit child marriage in Wisconsin, and we must provide minors who are currently married with the means and agency to leave that marriage. I hope that my legislative colleagues will join us in taking this essential step to protecting some of the most vulnerable Wisconsinites.”

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*** Attached to this release is the cosponsorship memo and bill for LRB 5749, which would ban child marriage in Wisconsin, as well as a memo from the Legislative Reference Bureau with data on child marriage in Wisconsin.*

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