



MELISSA AGARD  
STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 28, 2022

CONTACT: Senator Melissa Agard, 608-266-9170

## **Senator Agard Applauds Governor Evers, AG Kaul Challenge to Wisconsin's 1849 Criminal Abortion Ban**

MILWAUKEE - Today, Governor Evers and Attorney General Josh Kaul announced a legal challenge to Wisconsin's 1800s-era Criminal Abortion Ban. The lawsuit argues Wisconsin state statutes contain two sets of criminal laws that directly conflict with each other if both are applied to abortion and therefore Wisconsin's 19th century criminal abortion ban has been superseded by more contemporaneous legislation and cannot be enforced. Senator Melissa Agard (D-Madison) released the following statement on the challenge:

“Let me be clear, we will never stop until safe, legal abortion is restored in Wisconsin and we will not rest until pregnant people's rights are once again respected. We know that the people of Wisconsin stand on the right side of history in support of access to reproductive health care. Period.

“In Wisconsin, we care for one another. We are there for our friends and family when they are going through the most challenging times in their life. The judicial activism displayed in the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* flies in the face of Wisconsin's most closely held values of compassion and kindness.

“The legal challenge put forward today is correct on the merits and reflects the archaic nature of the 1849 abortion ban, which was put in place 71 years before women had the right to vote. I am grateful to Governor Evers and Attorney General Kaul for advocating so strongly for Wisconsinites across the state who deserve bodily autonomy and the respect to make these private decisions with their doctor and family - and only their doctor and family.

“This challenge will bring clarity to doctors and patients across the state. It is desperately needed. I am thrilled the Governor and Attorney General are using every tool in their toolbox to fight like hell for people across the state who demand access to abortion care without the interference of Republican politicians and unelected Supreme Court justices.”

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## **Senator Agard: Statement on the Anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising**

Madison, WI – Today is the 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising in New York City – a series of protests in response to a police raid at the Stonewall Inn in the Greenwich Village neighborhood. This event is widely considered a pivotal event in the LGBTQ+ movement in the United States. In 2016, President Obama designated Stonewall National Monument at Christopher St. in New York. Senator Melissa Agard (D-Madison) released the following statement on the continuing importance of this watershed moment in American history:

“Moral progress is made through grit and fortitude. It is due to brave folks like those who participated in the Stonewall Uprising that lead to positive changes in the state of our world. Today, we celebrate and honor those who risked harm to themselves in pursuit of equality and recognition under the law.

“In light of last week’s Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, it is more important now than ever to be vigilant in the protection of our personal freedoms, liberty, and civil rights. Everyone should be alarmed that in Justice Clarence Thomas’ concurrence, he noted that previous court decisions including *Obergefell v. Hodges*, should be re-examined. This is a warning shot that the rights of same-sex couples could soon be under attack.

“What the Stonewall Uprising taught us 53 years ago is that we must stand firm in our beliefs, even in the face of those who want to turn back the clock to a time of discrimination and inequality. I will continue standing side by side with the LGBTQ+ community and will never back down.”

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