



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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## **Rep. Kerkman, Rep. Schraa to Introduce “Sunshine Protection Act”**

Madison, WI –Representative Samantha Kerkman (R-Salem) and Representative Michael Schraa (R-Oshkosh) are circulating bill for co-sponsorship that would eliminate daylight saving time in the State of Wisconsin.

“As we look forward to the warmer weather in spring, many of us also dread the loss of an hour of sleep and every year people beg the question, why do we continue to do this?” Kerkman commented.

Wisconsin would not be the first state to choose to not recognize daylight saving time as both Arizona and Hawaii do not. Wisconsin would also not be the first state to introduce a bill to eliminate it. Currently, the States of Iowa and Michigan have bills in their legislatures that would eliminate daylight saving time and in 2015 Minnesota introduced a similar bill. In 2016

Reasons abound for the elimination of daylight saving time. It is said to have been done to save energy in war time, and help agriculture practices, but has resulted in kids walking to school in the dark and much confusion. Furthermore, a cardiology fellow at the University of Colorado in Denver studied sleep patterns through the year and found that the Monday following the switch to daylight saving time the risk of having a heart attack rose 25% compared to other Mondays. Another study done in Indiana found that following Indiana’s switch to observing daylight saving time in 2006 the state saw a 1% overall rise in residential electricity use which was equal to roughly an extra \$9 million. This is attributed to an increase in energy use during summer evenings and spring and fall mornings.

Daylight Saving Time was originally adopted by Wisconsin in the 1959-1960 biennium following a 1957 statewide advisory referendum. Voters at that time approved the measure 54% to 46%. However, it wasn’t until 1966 when daylight saving time was added in to federal law with the “Uniform Time Act.”

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