



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

July 7, 2016

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Scott Fitzgerald
Room 211 South, State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

The Honorable Robin Vos
Room 211 West, State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Majority Leader Fitzgerald and Speaker Vos,

In light of last week's U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, and the subsequent rejection of Wisconsin's appeal in *Schimel vs. Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, et. al.*, we call on you both to commit to repealing the unconstitutional provisions of 2013 Act 37 from state law, and restore a woman's health and safety as *the* top priority when enacting legislation that affects access to reproductive health care.

As you know, 2013 Act 37 ("Act 37") contained a provision that prohibits a physician from performing an abortion unless he or she has admitting privileges within 30 miles of the location where the procedure is performed. This kind of restriction was specifically struck down by the Court's majority in *Whole Woman's Health*, with the Court finding that such a requirement fails to "offer medical benefits sufficient to justify the burdens upon access that [it] imposes." During debate on Act 37, we heard many of the bill's supporters claim that the admitting privileges requirement was to keep women safe, but the U.S. Supreme Court, in thoroughly exploring the issue, found the opposite to be true—that the admitting privileges requirement did nothing to enhance the safety of abortion procedures, and that by operating to shut down reproductive health clinics, these unconstitutional burdens themselves actually put women's lives at greater risk for complications.

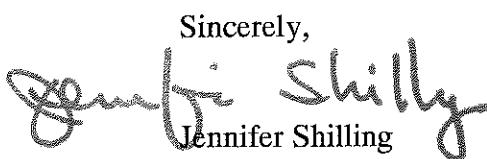
We are calling for the immediate repeal of Act 37's admitting privileges requirement because Wisconsin's law should reflect the full freedoms and personal liberties granted by the U.S. Constitution, and because a person's right to make their own decisions about abortion shouldn't depend on who they are or where they live.

The fact-finding done by the Court has unmasked Act 37's admitting privileges requirement as nothing more than an indirect attack on a woman's constitutionally protected right to safe, legal abortions, and allowing the law to remain on the books represents a state-sponsored violation of the civil liberties of every woman in the state of Wisconsin.

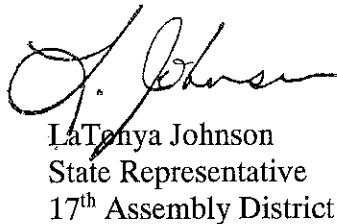
2015 Senate Bill 653, the Patient's Reproductive Health Act, eliminates the prohibition on performing abortions by a physician that does not have admitting privileges in a hospital within 30 miles of the location where the abortion is to be performed. The legislature should move forward in passing this bill without delay upon commencement of the 2017-18 legislative session.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to working with you to pass proactive legislation that protects and advances women's health and safety in Wisconsin.

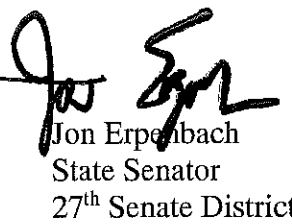
Sincerely,



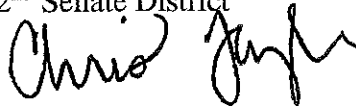
Jennifer Shilling
State Senator
32nd Senate District



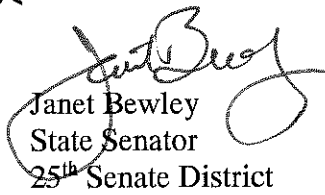
LaTonya Johnson
State Representative
17th Assembly District



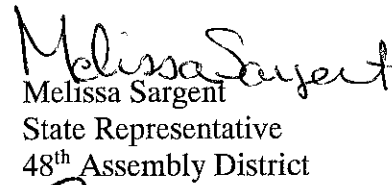
Jon Erpenbach
State Senator
27th Senate District



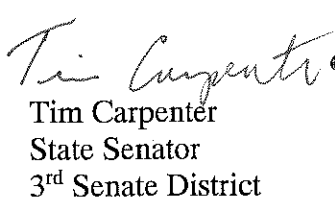
Chris Taylor
State Representative
76th Assembly District



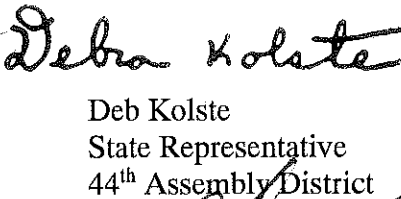
Janet Bewley
State Senator
25th Senate District



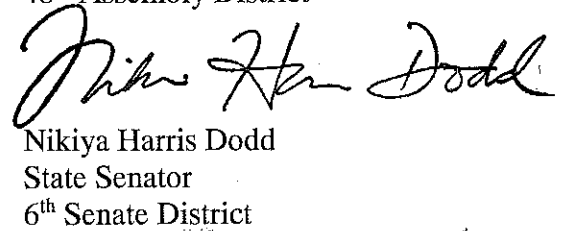
Melissa Sargent
State Representative
48th Assembly District



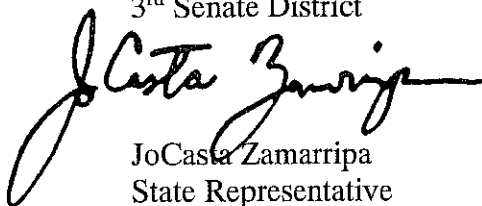
Tim Carpenter
State Senator
3rd Senate District



Deb Kolste
State Representative
44th Assembly District



Nikiya Harris Dodd
State Senator
6th Senate District




JoCasta Zamarripa
State Representative
8th Assembly District




Chris Larson
State Senator
7th Senate District




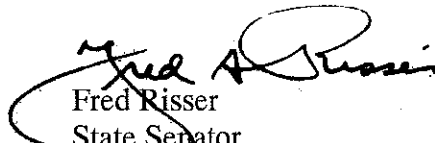
Robb Kahl
State Representative
47th Assembly District



Mark Miller
State Senator
16th Senate District



Jill Billings
State Representative
95th Assembly District



James Ringhand
State Senator
15th Senate District

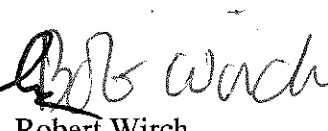

Mandela Barnes
State Representative
11th Assembly District



Fred Risser
State Senator
26th Senate District

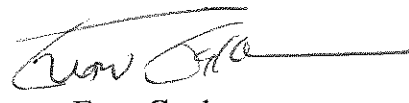

Gary Heer
State Representative
46th Assembly District

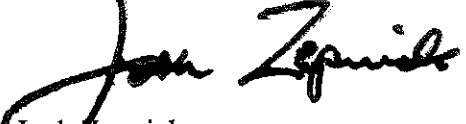

Lena Taylor
State Senator
4th Senate District

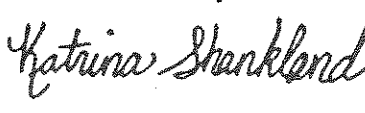

Dana Wachs
State Representative
91st Assembly District

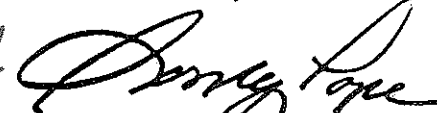

Robert Wirsch
State Senator
22nd Senate District

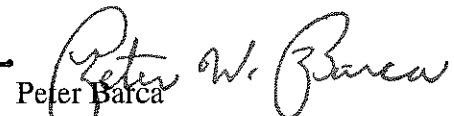

Jonathan Brostoff
State Representative
19th Assembly District

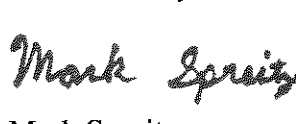

Evan Goyke
State Representative
18th Assembly District

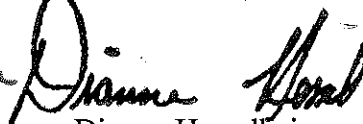

Josh Zepnick
State Representative
9th Assembly District

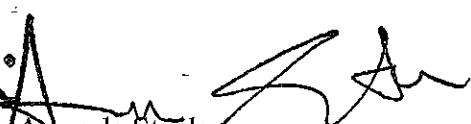

Katrina Shankland
State Representative
71st Assembly District



Sindy Pope
State Representative
80th Assembly District

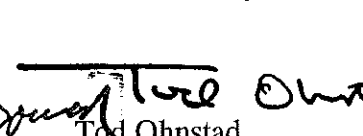

Peter Barca
State Representative
64th Assembly District



Mark Spreitzer
State Representative
45th Assembly District


Dianne Hesselbein
State Representative
79th Assembly District


Amanda Stück
State Representative
57th Assembly District


David Bowen
State Representative
10th Assembly District


Tod Ohnstad
State Representative
65th Assembly District


Lisa Subeck
State Representative
78th Assembly District



Christine Sinicki
State Representative
20th Assembly District



Terese Berceau
State Representative
77th Assembly District