



WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY  
**Christine Sinicki**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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For Immediate Release

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September 18, 2015

### **Statement on Welcoming of Pope Francis**

MILWAUKEE – State Rep. Christine Sinicki (D-Milwaukee) made this statement today regarding the opportunity to be present at the welcoming of Pope Francis to the White House next Wednesday:

“It is a great privilege to have been invited by the President and Mrs. Obama to join them and other Americans in welcoming Pope Francis to the United States. I am thrilled to be attending a White House ceremony in the presence of the world’s greatest leaders, whom I admire so wholeheartedly.

“Of course, I am profoundly moved by the prospect of witnessing a papal visit, such a rare opportunity for an American Catholic. The chance to see Pope Francis, though, is an especially wonderful gift. It is hard to overstate the importance of his visionary and humane leadership on our era’s most controversial issues, for Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

“It is the kind of humane caring he personifies that I’ve tried to bring to legislative work on issues that can be difficult for Catholics during 17 years in the state Assembly. These include issues of conscience and reproductive health, like the fight we waged and won to guarantee that all Wisconsin women can count on their [pharmacies to fill birth control](#) prescribed by their doctors.

I’ve been grateful while doing this work for the guidance of [Catholics for Choice](#) (CFC), a wonderful organization that has helped me examine and communicate more clearly about reproductive health from the perspectives of faith and public policy. CFC also consistently provides accurate research about how American Catholics actually feel and practice around issues of reproductive health (e.g., [WhatTheBishopsWontTellYouFactsheet](#)).

“I expect next Wednesday’s ceremony will be one of the most cherished experiences of my career, and a happy culmination for me of work I’ve pursued in the Legislature.”

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