



State of Wisconsin  
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1443/1  
TJD:ahe

## 2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1     **Relating to:** stating the legislature's declaration that abortion is health care.

2           Whereas, the state of Wisconsin is committed to a quality health care system  
3     that meets the needs of all of its citizens, and affordable abortion care is an essential  
4     component of this health care system. Since about 3 in 10 women will have an  
5     abortion in their lifetimes, it is one of the most common medical procedures in the  
6     United States; and

7           Whereas, abortion is one of the safest medical procedures in the United States.  
8     Aspiration abortion, for example, causes no complications in 99 percent of cases, and  
9     medication abortion causes no complications in more than 99.9 percent of cases,  
10    making it safer than Tylenol, aspirin, and Viagra; and

11          Whereas, abortion has become less accessible. The number of abortion clinics  
12    has declined by about 40 percent over the past three decades. Today, almost 90  
13    percent of counties in the United States do not have an abortion provider and 38  
14    percent of women of reproductive age live in those counties. Four states have only  
15    one provider and at least ten states have three or fewer providers; and

1           Whereas, abortion is an essential component of health care because it provides  
2 all women the ability to plan and space their pregnancies, which clearly improves  
3 women's physical, psychological, and economic well-being. For example, evidence  
4 shows that women who have a wanted abortion are better able to maintain a positive  
5 future outlook and achieve their aspirational life plans. Similarly, evidence clearly  
6 demonstrates that if a woman seeks an abortion and access is delayed or denied, she  
7 is at greater risk of experiencing adverse health and economic outcomes; and

8           Whereas, abortion is an essential component of health care for women with  
9 lower incomes. A five-year examination of the effects of unintended pregnancy on  
10 women's lives by the Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health research  
11 group, known as ANSIRH, found that the main reason women terminate their  
12 pregnancies is because they cannot afford to have a child; and

13           Whereas, abortion is an essential component of health care for women who face  
14 medical problems, such as a woman who is diagnosed with cancer in the middle of  
15 pregnancy and must make a choice between obtaining an abortion or forgoing  
16 lifesaving chemotherapy; and

17           Whereas, abortion is an essential component of health care for young teenagers  
18 who become pregnant, such as a girl who must make a choice between obtaining an  
19 abortion or running the risk of enduring severe, lasting damage to her physical  
20 health; and

21           Whereas, abortion is an essential component of health care for women who  
22 experience major problems in pregnancy, such as a woman who finds out that her  
23 fetus would only live for a few hours past birth and carrying that pregnancy to term  
24 might severely damage her ability to bear other children in the future; and

1           Whereas, the practice of abortion care, like all health care, should be driven by  
2 evidence-based standards developed and supported by medical professionals, but  
3 instead, patients and providers are required to overcome numerous barriers erected  
4 by abortion opponents. These barriers—waiting periods, so-called “counseling”  
5 requirements, bans on insurance coverage, limits on who can perform abortions, and  
6 laws that are targeted regulation of abortion providers or TRAP laws—are not  
7 intended to protect a woman’s safety but are designed to coerce women into giving  
8 birth to unwanted children. They serve no purpose other than to make abortion more  
9 difficult and expensive; and

10           Whereas, when abortion opponents argue for onerous regulations and  
11 procedures, they are treating abortion care as if it is a separate issue apart from  
12 health care, but abortion is, in fact, health care; now, therefore, be it

13           ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the Wisconsin  
14 legislature is committed to ensuring that:

15           abortion is recognized as an essential component of women’s health care;

16           abortion care is made affordable and accessible throughout Wisconsin and  
17 integrated into the health care safety net;

18           state, city, and county health departments promote policies and take steps to  
19 increase access to abortion care;

20           both public and private health insurance covers abortion care;

21           facilities providing abortion care or health care professionals providing  
22 abortion care are not subjected to regulations more burdensome than those imposed  
23 on facilities or health care professionals that provide medically comparable  
24 procedures;

25           all qualified health care professionals are able to provide abortion care; and

1 health care professionals providing abortion care are able to follow best medical  
2 practices developed and supported by scientific evidence.

3 (END)