

## Midwest hospitality for Wisconsin's abortion patients

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Women forced to travel long distances for abortions in Madison will now be given free accommodation thanks to a program launched today by NARAL Pro-Choice Wisconsin.

Patient Stays Wisconsin connects patients with volunteers who offer private rooms, home cooked meals and emotional support on the nights surrounding their clinic appointments.

There are now just three abortion clinics currently operating in Wisconsin, one in Madison and two in Milwaukee, leaving 97 percent of counties without a clinic.

Wisconsin's recent restrictions to abortion access make getting an abortion more difficult and emotionally taxing than it needs to be. For instance, the mandatory 24-hour waiting period between counseling and the abortion procedure often means women have to make two trips. This places unnecessary burdens on people likely to have work and family obligations.

The offer of hospitality removes at least one of the stress points associated with getting an abortion.

"All women have a right to access abortion should they need to. They also have a right to feel safe and supported while they do so," said Eliza Cussen, chair of NARAL Pro-Choice Wisconsin.

"Patient Stays Wisconsin is not just about increasing convenience, it's about showing women that they have dignity and are deserving of compassionate care when they exercise their right to choose," Cussen said.

Patient Stays Wisconsin hosts are rigorously screened and trained, so that women can be confident they are in an environment that supports them and their choices.

The program will be trialed in Madison for six months before being expanded to Milwaukee.

Find out more at [patientstayswi.org](http://patientstayswi.org)

**For interviews contact:**

Jessica VanEgeren  
NARAL Pro-Choice Wisconsin  
(608) 320-3535  
[jvanegeren@gmail.com](mailto:jvanegeren@gmail.com)