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LWVWI Supports AB588/SB589, Right to Contraception Act (RCA)

AB588/SB589, Right to Contraception Act (RCA), creates a statutory right for individuals to have access to FDA approved contraceptive methods and ensures health care providers can provide contraception services without state or local government interference. The Wisconsin League of Women voters supports the passage of AB588/SB589, Right to Contraception Act (RCA).

Since 1983 the League of Women Voters has supported the constitutional right to privacy of an individual to make reproductive choices, inclusive of their use of contraception. Being able to control one's reproductive health and to plan and control the number of pregnancies wanted is the bedrock for women's full participation in the workforce, ensuring their family's financial health and optimizing their children's life outcomes.

This bill is needed now in Wisconsin because Justice Thomas, in his concurring opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson*, argued that there should be a re-examination of previous decisions based on the right to privacy, specifically calling out the 1965 *Griswold v. Connecticut* contraception decision ensuring couples' right to contraception. The U.S. House of Representatives easily passed the Right to Contraception Act in 2022, but the U.S. Senate has failed to pass the bill in 2022, 2023 and 2024. The failure to pass a national RCA resulted in many states passing their own RCAs ensuring their constituents' ability to access contraception.

The need for RCA protection in Wisconsin has increased since 2022 as Project 2025 targets restricting access to contraceptives by eliminating ACA coverage mandates, defunding Planned Parenthood, decreasing Medicaid funding and eliminating Title X clinics. The current administration has successfully decreased funding to Medicaid and Title X clinics and appears posed to defund Planned Parenthood.

Wisconsin families have already experienced the impact of the loss of Title X clinics because of changes made to 253.075 Family Planning Grant in 2015, switching the grantee of Title X monies from Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin to Department of Health Services as of 2018. A [Guttmacher Institute study](#) from 2017-2024 found these changes resulted in a 78% persistent reduction in the number of Wisconsin women served by Title X clinics and a spillover effect resulting in a 39% reduction in the number of Wisconsin women served by publicly funded clinics.

The impact of these losses is significant as this study identified the number of Wisconsin women of reproductive age using contraception decreased from 85% to 75% between 2017 and 2023.



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The Wisconsin Legislature's failure to give this bill a hearing in the 2023-24 legislature shows their continued willingness to limit access to contraception. The RCA reflects the will of the people as [85% of Wisconsinites](#) support prohibiting state government from restricting or banning contraception, and 9 in 10 Wisconsin families use contraception to plan their families. As many Wisconsinites struggle with affordability of food, housing and insurance, an unexpected mouth to feed, clothe and insure is beyond their financial capabilities.

It is time the Wisconsin Legislature passed reproductive health laws, like the RCA, that reflects the will of the people.