

Rep. Conley: Gov. Evers' special session to repeal Wisconsin's 1849 abortion ban

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MADISON - Governor Tony Evers called the Wisconsin State Legislature to meet in a special session to repeal Wisconsin's 1849 abortion ban. Rep. Sue Conley (D-Janesville) released the following statement in response:

"We recently learned of the leaked draft opinion of the United States Supreme Court that could overturn *Roe v. Wade*, turning back the clock on established and recognized reproductive rights by nearly 50 years. Should *Roe v. Wade* be overturned, Wisconsin's archaic law passed in 1849 may be immediately revived in the state. The 1849 law makes providing abortion care a felony, with no exceptions for rape or incest, placing physicians at risk of prosecution and prison.

"Reproductive healthcare must be treated like all healthcare. Women need to be able to make healthcare decisions in a safe, legal environment with their doctor, family, and faith. Licensed healthcare professionals must be able to deliver care and medical advice to patients without fear of intimidation or criminal prosecution. I am very concerned that some lawmakers are trying to erode the rights of women who deserve to choose their own future for themselves and their families. Thankfully, Governor Evers has vetoed every single bill from Republicans restricting access to reproductive healthcare.

“I am once again disappointed that Republicans are so disengaged from their constituencies that they will not even show up when Governor Evers calls a special session. The majority of people do not support total abortion bans, which Wisconsin may very well revert to in the near future.

“Banning abortion does not stop abortion. We’ve been there before. Banning abortion only puts lives at risk and denies the right to make a choice based on one’s circumstances, values, and responsibilities. Politicians have no place to interfere with that choice.”