

Sen. Agard: Introduce advisory referendum on state's archaic abortion ban statute with Democratic colleagues

Posted on Monday, Jan 23, 2023

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MADISON – Today, Senator Melissa Agard (D-Madison) stood alongside Representative Lisa Subeck (D-Madison) and her Democratic colleagues as they announced legislation that would place an advisory referendum on the ballot during the spring election in April of 2024 that read, “shall Wisconsin’s 1849 abortion law be repealed and the constitutional rights guaranteed under Roe v. Wade be restored?” Senator Agard released the following statement:

“Abortion care is health care and the people of Wisconsin will make that resoundingly clear given the opportunity to voice their preference in a statewide advisory referendum. Abortion is personal, and no politician or government should decide for an individual when and whether or not to continue a pregnancy.

“Last week, my Democratic colleagues and I offered an amendment that would have placed this advisory referendum on the ballot this spring. Unfortunately, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle rejected the amendment, and rejected the opportunity to hear directly from the voters of Wisconsin and their stance on repealing Wisconsin’s 1849 criminal abortion ban.

“Every day that passes and legislative republicans choose to deny access to safe, legal abortion in Wisconsin is another day that they willfully choose to jeopardize the lives of pregnant people, which is why Wisconsin Democrats, led by Representative Subeck and Senators Roys and Johnson are now offering this as standalone legislation and providing the majority party with another opportunity to

do the right thing.

“Governor Evers, my Democratic colleagues, and I will pursue every pathway possible and will not stop fighting until reproductive freedoms are restored and respected in Wisconsin. The will of the people is the law of the land and it’s far past time that we honor their will.”