

# Rep. Stroud: Demands a vote on post-partum Medicaid expansion and “Gail’s Law”

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Madison, WI—Two bipartisan, life-saving bills with overwhelming support continue to be blocked from a vote in the Assembly by Speaker Robin Vos, and the Republican members who elected him speaker.

In only two states in the country—Wisconsin and Arkansas—pregnant women who qualify for Medicaid but lack other health insurance are cut off just 60 days after giving birth. Post-partum Medicaid expansion would extend coverage for new mothers from 60 days to 12 months after birth. In 2023, nearly 50 Wisconsin women died from postpartum-related causes, and in the second half of 2024 an average of 700 women per month lost coverage after the 60-day cutoff. The bill has passed the Senate 32-1, twice, and it has 76 cosponsors in the Assembly, including every Assembly Democrat, yet it has never received a committee hearing.

“Gail’s Law,” which would expand access to breast cancer screenings for women with dense breast tissue passed unanimously out of committee and cleared the Senate 32-1. It is supported by nearly every Assembly Democrat and two-thirds of the entire chamber.

Despite clear bipartisan support, and more than enough votes to pass both bills, neither has been brought to the floor.

Representative Stroud (D-Ashland) released the following statement:

“The votes are there. The support is there. The urgency is there. What’s missing is the Speaker’s willingness to act. Nearly 50 Wisconsin moms died in a single year

from postpartum causes, how many others suffered unnecessarily because they lacked access to healthcare? An estimated 700 new moms are losing coverage every month. “Gail’s Law” ensures women with dense breast tissue can access the life-saving screenings they need to detect cancer early. Early detection saves lives.

We can prevent tragedies, keep moms healthy, and save women’s lives. I cannot understand why Speaker Vos is opposed to these bills. Even worse, I cannot understand how his members allow him to have total control over their ability to vote. They need to do the right thing and take a vote on these bills. Instead of getting this done, Republican leadership wants to gavel out and head home early. Assembly Democrats are ready to stay and do the work. Wisconsin women and families cannot wait. Let us vote.”