



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date:

Contact: Representative Melissa Sargent

Email: Rep.Sargent@legis.wi.gov

Phone: 608-266-0960

## Wisconsin Lawmakers Release Equality Agenda

MADISON – Rep. Melissa Sargent (D-Madison) released the following statement to introduce LRB-2628 which establishes a task force to study the legal and societal barriers to equality for transgender, intersex, non-binary, and gender nonconforming individuals, co-authored by Rep. Spreitzer (D-Beloit) and Sen. Carpenter (D-Milwaukee):

“As a state, it is our duty to create a healthy, safe, and welcoming community for all of our friends and neighbors. Yet too often, the LGTBQ community, and specifically the transgender, intersex, non-binary, and gender non-conforming community, is marginalized, under-represented, and faces undue and discriminatory burdens. Our society has failed to truly recognize their identities, which has had a direct impact on their ability to receive equitable education, healthcare, housing, and employment, and has created significant legal and societal barriers.

This past January, I was approached by a large group of Wisconsinites who knew that their voices were not being heard. These folks pointed out to me that our government currently does not represent their interests, and does not stand up for their basic human rights. These individuals are tired of our states inability to recognize them for who they are. A majority of these courageous individuals are youths in our community, who are growing up in a world that too often refuses to accept their identity. These young people are often bullied, denied appropriate healthcare access, rejected by family members and friends, and denied their true identity by the state of Wisconsin. As a state legislator, it is my job to listen to the people in my community and work with them to craft meaningful legislation that is representative of them. Wisconsin must to do more to support transgender, intersex, non-binary, and gender non-conforming individuals, lift up their voices, and to hear and address their concerns about the egregious disparities that are taking place within our state.

Through collaboration with constituents and advocacy groups, I am honored to release LRB-2628 which establishes a transgender, intersex, non-binary, and gender nonconforming equality task force. The task force is required to study the legal and societal barriers to equality for transgender, intersex, non-binary, and gender nonconforming individuals in Wisconsin. This task force will provide comprehensive recommendations to the governor and the legislature on how to ensure equality for our friends and neighbors. This legislation would not have been possible without the voices of the courageous youth who are tired of our states inability to accept their identities.”

###