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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep Emerson Statement on Introduction of Wisconsin Equal Rights Amendment

MADISON – Today, Rep. Jodi Emerson (D-Eau Claire) joined Sen. LaTonya Johnson, Sen. Jon Erpenbach, Rep. Sara Rodriguez, Rep. Lisa Subeck, Rep. Tip McGuire, and Rep. Lee Snodgrass to announce the introduction of an Equal Rights Amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution.

Wisconsin’s Equal Rights Amendment establishes equal rights on the basis of sex, gender identity, race, color, sexual orientation, disability, religion, national origin, marital status, family status, age, ancestry, or any other immutable characteristic.

“This proposed amendment signals our commitment to the fundamental truth that all Wisconsinites deserve equal treatment under the law,” said Rep. Emerson. **“Although more work still needs to be done to ensure all Wisconsinites see equal treatment as a reality, the ERA is a vital step towards that goal and I’m proud of the work my colleagues and activists have done to get us here.”**

The federal Equal Rights Amendment passed through the U.S. House of Representatives on Oct. 12, 1971, and through the U.S. Senate on March 22, 1972. As the Amendment went to the states for ratification, many states took the opportunity to establish an Equal Rights Amendment in their state constitutions as well. Wisconsin acted as one of the first states to ratify the federal Equal Rights Amendment, doing so on April 26, 1972. However, Wisconsin still does not have a state Equal Rights Amendment in our constitution.

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