



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Rep. Rodriguez Introduces Wisconsin's Equal Rights Amendment**

MADISON – Today, Rep. Sara Rodriguez (D-Brookfield) joined Legislative Democrats to introduce 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 change to our constitution would be a reflection of important Wisconsin values – we all deserve equal treatment under the law and no person should ever face discrimination for who they are. Wisconsin has failed many of its people in this regard, but we can and must continue to fight for equality for all Wisconsinites. Our constitution is a statement of our values. A statement of who we are and who we aspire to be. I am proud to author this legislation and make this long overdue change to our constitution."

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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