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Leah Spicer calls on Todd Novak to stand up to extremism and support direct democracy during the Wisconsin Special Legislative Session

Leah Spicer (D-Avoca), who is running against incumbent Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville), in Wisconsin's 51st Assembly District, released the following statement regarding today's special legislative session called by the governor:

"Women in Wisconsin find ourselves stripped of our right to make choices about our own bodies. The Republican-controlled Legislature seems content, or even supportive of this stripping of rights - while Governor Tony Evers has admirably tried to protect our ability to make choices about our own bodies at every step of the way: by calling special sessions, hosting rallies, vetoing bills and speaking out in support of us. With his most recent call for a special session he is going a step further by proposing to create a pathway that would allow the will of the people to become the law of the land.

"Gov. Evers wants to make it possible for the people of Wisconsin to introduce referenda and ballot initiatives through a process of petitions and signatures submitted to the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC), which would bypass the Legislature when it refuses to act. Put simply, the proposed process is about strengthening our democracy and giving the people the power to vote directly on matters that affect their lives.

"What will the Republicans in our state legislature do in this special session? Will they inevitably gavel in and gavel out like they so often do? According to the July 20th Marquette Law School Poll, 60% of Wisconsinites are opposed to the 1849-era criminal abortion ban and 60% of Wisconsinites support safe, legal access to abortion. Why then do Republicans in the legislature refuse to even discuss, make a plan or represent their constituents' needs on this critical issue? They are not representing us. They are getting in the way of democracy. They are getting in the way of the will of the people. Republican officials in Wisconsin are silencing the voices of the people they have a duty to serve, while stripping away their rights to make choices for themselves. This, to me, is a failure of government. If our Republican legislators truly represent the people, then why are they so scared of them?

Because this proposed change goes beyond any one singular right, it speaks to a collective right of the people to stand up when their representatives fail or refuse to do so and bring forth to a vote the issues that are important to the people of Wisconsin.

"Todd Novak, I am calling on you to listen to your constituents and grant them the right to have their voices heard. Empowering the people to have a voice should not be a partisan issue. If you are the moderate you claim to be, you need to stand up to the extremists in your party. Your independence can be your strength. Let's move forward together.

“Otherwise, it might be time to move forward without you.”

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Leah Spicer is the Democratic candidate for the 51st State Assembly District. Leah is a mother of three young children, the clerk of her town board, and the owner of a restaurant in Spring Green. Growing up on a small farm in Clyde - Leah is no stranger to hard work, she is running for this office to continue working hard for the people of southwest Wisconsin, and ensure fully funded public schools and local governments, access to affordable healthcare and rural opportunity, and protect our land, air and water from pollutants.