

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Three WI US Representatives Praised for Opposing New Anti-birth Control Regulation**

The Wisconsin Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association (WFPRHA) and the Wisconsin Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (WRCRC) expressed their appreciation to Tammy Baldwin, Ron Kind, and Gwen Moore for opposing new regulations that would limit access to birth control. Baldwin, Kind and Moore joined with 101 other US Representatives who signed a direct and short letter to the President asserting that although the regulations purport to support anti-discrimination protections: “The true impact . . . would be to jeopardize women’s access to safe and effective birth control across the country.”

Jackie Bodden, WFPRHA President, said the organization would like Wisconsin citizens to know that Baldwin, Kind, and Moore quickly stepped forward to join the American Medical Association (AMA), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the National Partnership for Women and Families (NPWF), the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA), the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC) and countless other national, regional and local organizations in their opposition to the unnecessary and extreme redefinition of ‘abortion’ to encompass many forms of birth control. “More than 90% of all women of all religions use modern contraceptive methods during their reproductive years,” said Bodden. “This proposed regulation is yet another effort to put one more obstacle in the way of women’s health. After seven years, enough is enough.”

Cathy Thompson, Executive Director of WRCRC cited the letter from ACOG to Health and Human

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Services Secretary Leavitt which stated: “This egregious regulation is an affront to health professionals and to American Women.” Thompson said that her organization was most offended by the effort to twist legitimate conscience protections for religious people into regulations that would undermine and subvert reproductive health care providers: “Religious liberty must not be politicized and our constitutional protections must not be distorted for ideological reasons,” she said. “Although these regulations pretend to protect health care workers of religious conviction from discrimination, the real intent is to force family planning clinics to hire people opposed to contraception. There’s no conscience in that, it’s just subterfuge.”

WFPRHA and WRCRC encourage the public to contact federal legislators ([www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov); [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)) and President Bush ([comments@whitehouse.gov](mailto:comments@whitehouse.gov)) to express their opposition to the proposed regulation. Lon Newman, Public Affairs Chair for WFPRHA said that by the time the regulations are adopted and published, there may be a new administration. “Here’s another example of how important the Presidential election will be,” Newman said. “People who believe that preventing unintended pregnancies is important for maternal and child health and preventing abortion have to pay attention, ask questions, speak up, and vote.”

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