

Kathleen's Positions on Women's Health Issues

I have a son, Nathan, who is the greatest joy in my life. Having a baby or an abortion is an intensely personal decision. Such a decision is private and emotional: one that a woman makes with her doctor, her family and her faith.

One of my sisters almost died of a self-induced abortion. I have seen firsthand the horror of what happens when access is limited and needed medicine, medical procedures, or care is not available. That is why I have voted throughout my career to make abortion legal, safe, and accessible.

Planned Parenthood has recognized my work, saying, "We know that you share our dedication to protecting access to women's health care in Wisconsin and are committed to restoring freedom and opportunity to women and their families in our state."

Below is a list of bills and votes related to women's issues.

2007-2008 Legislative Session

AB-377 (Compassionate Care For Rape Victims Act): Requires a hospital to provide a sexual assault victim with information and emergency contraception upon request and provides a penalty if the hospital does not comply.

I voted Aye

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2007/related/journals/senate/20080228/712>

SB-129: Same as above

I voted Aye

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2007/related/journals/senate/20070516/52>

AB-427: Gives physician the right to refuse an abortion if the physician suspects the woman is being coerced into having the abortion.

I voted No on taking bill out of committee.

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2007/related/journals/senate/20080311/599>

2009-2010 Legislative Session

Act 28 (The state budget): Creates a pharmacy mandate for all pharmacies in Wisconsin to dispense prescribed contraceptive without delay, requires health insurance plans that cover prescription drugs to include contraceptives in that coverage, expands public Family Planning program in the state's BadgerCare Plus Medicaid waiver program.

I voted Aye

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2009/related/journals/senate/20090625.pdf>

AB-458 (Healthy Youth Act): Requires that public schools provide age-appropriate education about sexual reproduction and comprehensive sex education including contraceptives,

I voted Aye

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2009/related/journals/senate/20100128/ 241>

SB-460 (The Expedited Partner Therapy Act): Allows the partner of someone with an STD to receive antibiotic treatment.

I voted Aye

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2009/related/journals/senate/20100223/ 191>

2011-2012 Legislative Session

Act 32 (The state budget): Eliminates all state funding for Planned Parenthood health centers in Wisconsin, which caused five Planned Parenthood clinics to close, prevented UW hospitals from providing abortions, and lowers future Medicaid spending by \$500 million.

I voted No

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2011/related/journals/senate/20110616ex/ 110>

SB-92: Stops the (non-existent) state health marketplace from offering plans that cover abortion even when women pay for coverage herself.

I voted No

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2011/related/journals/senate/20111020/ 270>

SB- 202: Repeals the Pay Equity Act, which eliminates the requirement that employers who engage in gender-based discrimination have to pay compensation.

I voted No

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2011/related/journals/senate/20111103/ 131>

SB-237 (The Anti-Healthy Youth Act): Scales back sex-education requirements for public school education.

I voted No

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2011/related/journals/senate/20111102/ 521>

SB-306: Gives physicians the right to refuse an abortion if physician suspects the woman is being coerced into having said abortion.

I voted No

http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2011/related/journals/senate/20120222/_147

2013-2014 Legislative Session

SB-206: Forces a woman receiving an abortion to have an ultrasound.

I voted No

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/related/votes/senate/sv0100>

2015-2016 Legislative Session

AB-310: Cuts funding to family planning clinics by changing the eligibility requirements for federal funding.

I voted No

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2015/related/votes/senate/sv0207>

<http://www.ppawi.org/issues/current-issues-legislation/defundingvotes.cmsx>

SB-179: Causes abortions after 20 weeks to become illegal and gives fathers the right to sue if the mother does get an abortion.

I voted No

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2015/related/votes/senate/sv0061>

SB-238: Cuts funding to family planning clinics by reducing federal Medicaid reimbursement payments for certain drugs (mostly related to treatment of sexually transmitted diseases).

I voted No

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2015/related/votes/senate/sv0187>

<http://www.ppawi.org/issues/current-issues-legislation/defundingvotes.cmsx>

2017-2018 Legislative Session

SB-269/AB-392: Maintains access to reimbursement for family planning providers under the Medical Assistance Program.

I am a co-author of this legislation

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/proposals/sb269.pdf>

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/proposals/ab392>

SB-567/AB-657: Protects a patient's right to receive medically accurate information and the right of a health care provider to give medically accurate information to a patient.

I am a co-author of this legislation

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/proposals/sb567.pdf>

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/proposals/ab657.pdf>

SB-568/AB-658: Creates a reproductive health care facility safety program to address harassment, threats and violence towards patients, prospective patients and reproductive health care providers.

I am a co-author of this legislation

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/proposals/sb568.pdf>

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/proposals/ab658.pdf>

SB-569/AB-656: Specifies that every woman has the fundamental right to choose an abortion and makes any law or rule that places a burden on a woman's access to abortion unenforceable if it doesn't confer a legitimate health benefit.

I am a co-author of this legislation

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/proposals/sb569.pdf>

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/proposals/ab656.pdf>

SB-642/AB-753: Allows women to fill their birth control prescriptions for 12 months.

I am a co-author of this legislation

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/proposals/sb642.pdf>

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/proposals/ab753.pdf>