



# Advancing women's health. Supporting women's health policy.

Working to unite, coordinate and amplify the voices of Wisconsin women's health supporters.

Women's ability to lead fulfilling lives and to participate fully in society depends in large part on their health. Healthy women contribute to healthy families, healthy work places, and healthy communities. When women's health suffers, the consequences extend far beyond themselves.

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH** is a critical component of women's general health. Reproductive health care includes a variety of prevention, wellness and family planning services, as well as diagnosis and treatment of reproductive health concerns.

**WISCONSIN'S LAWS** governing reproductive health are some of the most restrictive in the nation, despite strong public support for women's health, including birth control, prenatal care, and funding for family planning. In the face of these threats, there are many things we all value when it comes to protecting and advancing women's health.

**THEREFORE, IT IS CRITICAL** that women's health and reproductive health supporters unite, coordinate and amplify their voices to affect policy makers and protect access to comprehensive health care and information.

**THE WISCONSIN ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH** is an independent, statewide network of organizations dedicated to broadening the base of awareness of and support for reproductive health as a critical component of women's health in Wisconsin.

**TOGETHER, WE WILL** advocate for the prioritization of access to comprehensive women's health care and information around the state.

**WE HOPE YOU WILL** consider joining this network of organizations committed to women's health in Wisconsin. We welcome your organization's endorsement and involvement, particularly if you have not advocated on behalf of women's health in the past. Organizations can choose their individual levels of involvement and participation as members at the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health. Most importantly, members lend their support to this critical, timely effort.

## WHY JOIN?

- To improve women's health and, therefore, Wisconsin's health.
- To receive regular updates and action alerts regarding legislative initiatives affecting women's health.
- To access resources and tool kits for communicating the importance of women's health to your members, community, and your legislative leaders.
- To network and share information with other organizational members and representatives.

## BENEFITS OF INVESTING IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

- Improved access to primary and preventive health care services and better health outcomes for all Wisconsin women throughout their life span.
- Elimination of disparities in breast and cervical cancer prevention for African American and Hispanic and Latina women.
- Fewer unintended pregnancies among teenagers and fewer premature and low birth weight infants.
- Better perinatal and postnatal care leading to healthier children and families.
- Higher educational attainment among teenagers, increased employment opportunities and less poverty.
- More cost effective for society.

## WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

### Nationally

- 88% believe that all men and women should be able to decide the number and spacing of their children
- 74% believe that the way to make abortions rare is to make sure that women and teens have access to family planning and sex education that includes information about birth control and abstinence

### In Wisconsin

- 77% support medically accurate and age appropriate sex education
- 71% support access to emergency contraception (81% support access for survivors of rape and incest)
- 67% support preserving family planning funding