

For Immediate Release
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Assembly Republicans Delete Valuable Women's Health Programs
Budget puts "Families LAST"

Madison – In what they are calling their *Families First* plan, the Assembly Republicans passed a budget package that to the contrary threatens the health of Wisconsin families. Following last night's Assembly vote, the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH) criticizes and condemns Assembly leadership for undermining the public health of our state.

The Assembly Republican Budget Package includes such devastating proposals as:

- **Deleting** the increased funding to support community health centers
- **Deleting** monies provided for colposcopic examinations
- **Deleting** the funding increase for breast cancer and cervical cancer screening services under the Wisconsin Well Woman Program
- **Deleting** the Family Planning Demonstration Project
- **Reducing** funding for the state's HIV/AIDS program
- **Deleting** one-time funding for an infant mortality project in Racine County
- **Requiring** DHFS to apply annually for federal abstinence-only education funds from the Title V State Abstinence Education Grant Program
- **Modifying** the state's family planning program to deny funding to family planning health care providers who provide non-directive, all options pregnancy counseling as require by federal and state law

"This attack on low-income individuals ability to access critical life saving health care from family planning, HIV and colposcopy is a devastating blow that will cost taxpayers millions, as well as affect the health and well-being of too many Wisconsinites," stated WAWH Director Sara Finger.

Despite strong bipartisan support in the Joint Finance Committee, Assembly Republicans reversed course on many public health programs, such as the expansion of the Family Planning Waiver.

"The bold and unfortunate move of Assembly leaders demonstrates their absolute lack of compassion for Wisconsin families," stated Finger. "With their numerous proposals to delete and minimize critical state public health programs, they've basically put Wisconsin families dead last!"

The Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health now calls on the Budget Conference Committee, to genuinely put Wisconsin families first and to re-establish the support for the programs threatened by Assembly leadership this week.

To learn more about the 2007 State Budget, visit www.supportwomenshealth.org.

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The mission of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH) is to advance women's health by creating an environment in which the public and elected officials confidently support women's health policy.
To learn more about WAWH, visit our website: www.supportwomenshealth.org