

## **Scott Walker - Women's Issues**

*Wisconsin has historically been a champion of women's rights in America, becoming in 1919 the first state to ratify the 19th amendment granting national suffrage to women and passing in 1921 the nation's first equal rights bill. Given the pioneering ways of our forefathers, the zealotry of right-wing ideologues like Scott Walker willing to drive Wisconsin backward instead of "Forward" is all the more disturbing.*

### **Governor Scott Walker's Anti-Woman Budget**

- In addition to ceding power to an unelected bureaucrat who has long favored the abolition of comprehensive public health programs, Scott Walker's budget gutting family planning services and completely eliminating the Title V program in Wisconsin, which provides critical health care services to uninsured women and men including cervical cancer screens, prostate cancer screenings, breast and well women exams and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases.
- Walker's backward budget also allows insurance companies to discriminate against women by denying coverage for legally prescribed birth control, a divisive, partisan overreach that not only infringes on the rights of women, but insults the ability of medical professionals to determine which medications and treatments are appropriate for their patients.
- The Walker budget completely eliminates funding for Planned Parenthood, which thousands of women rely on as their only healthcare provider.

["Walker's elimination of family planning funds could jeopardize federal dollars, close clinics," [The Capital Times](#), 3/8/2011]

### **Scott Walker Opposes A Woman's Right to Choose in All Cases, Compassionate Care for Rape Victims Act**

Scott Walker believes that abortion should be outlawed, even in cases of rape, incest and life of the mother, and was proud to announce the endorsement of the radical organization Pro-Life Wisconsin during his gubernatorial campaign. Scott Walker also opposes the Wisconsin law requiring hospitals provide victims of rape with comprehensive, compassionate care, including access to emergency birth control to prevent pregnancy resulting from an assault.

["Both GOP governor candidates endorsed by ultra-conservative abortion foe." [The Capital Times](#), 7/1/2010]

## **Scott Walker Uses State Website to Direct Women Towards Faith-Based “Crisis Pregnancy Center”**

Scott Walker completely eliminated funding for Planned Parenthood, yet inappropriately used state resources to direct women towards a faith-based “crisis pregnancy center” whose aim is to “share the love and truth of Jesus Christ.” In addition to completely blurring the lines separating church and state, this leads women to receive information from groups that may provide misinformation on health care choices.

So-called “crisis pregnancy centers” do not provide any actual health services beyond drugstore pregnancy tests, are not staffed by licensed medical professionals despite being advertised as health clinics and are not regulated on the content of the medical advice they dispense.

[“Wisconsin state health website steers women toward faith-based pregnancy center,” [The Daily Page](#), 7/28/2011]

## **Scott Walker Opposes the Healthy Youth Act**

At a right to life convention in April 2010, Walker praised a county prosecutor who threatened teachers for using the Healthy Youth Act, a comprehensive sex education curriculum implemented by Gov. Jim Doyle that allowed for the discussion of birth control, sexually transmitted diseases/infections, and other related subjects, and ensured that sex education curricula were based on medical facts and science.

[“Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker’s Abortion Crusade,” [Mother Jones](#), 2/21/2011]

Walker and Lt Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch campaigned on the repeal of the Healthy Youth Act, and now Kleefisch’s husband, Assemblyman Joel Kleefisch, is circulating legislation to do just that.

## **Scott Walker’s Anti-Woman Record as a Legislator**

During his career in the Wisconsin Legislature, Scott Walker sponsored and voted for some of the most extreme anti-women’s health policies, including:

- Allowing pharmacists to refuse to fill women’s birth control prescriptions (2001 AB 168)
- Eliminating prevention based family planning services for low income women (2001 AB 831)
- Allowing doctors to withhold medical information and refuse to provide routing prenatal tests to women (2001 AB 360; 1999 AB 535; 1997 AB 538)
- Denying women insurance coverage of birth control (2001 AR 55)

- Allowing insurance companies to deny women coverage for basic health care like maternity care, mammograms, and cervical cancer screenings (1999 AA15-AA2-ASA1 AB 133)