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For Immediate Release

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**Defunding Family Planning Clinics: Fewer Access Points Equal Worse Health Outcomes**  
*AB310 and AB311 could have devastating effects on early breast cancer detection*

**Milwaukee** - Assembly Bills 310 and 311, intended to essentially shutter all family planning clinics in Wisconsin, will surely have an effect on the number of breast cancers detected at their earliest, most treatable stage.

Family Planning clinics provide essential access to health care for many low income women in both urban and rural settings. While they may not actually provide mammograms, they provide clinical breast exams and can refer women to the state's Well Woman Program where they may be eligible for screening, diagnostic and treatment coverage.

AB310 proposes using federal funding available for family planning (Title X) and diverting it to the WI Well Woman Program (WWWP). Unfortunately, WWWP is a federally directed and funded program for a limited number of services – and family planning is not one of them. The focus of WWWP is breast and cervical cancer screening. The program also has age limitations of 45-64 – certainly not a key demographic for family planning services. This proposal would likely require additional layers of administrative work and accounting for the service coordinators and providers. Additionally, the WWWP underwent a poorly advised restructuring recently that dramatically cut back the number of providers and service coordinators. The program is still in disarray from this restructuring and is in no position to add additional services.

WWWP is not the appropriate program towards which Title X funds for family planning should be directed. Adding funding to a program that has been structurally downsized to the degree that WWWP has makes no fiscal sense and will not benefit Wisconsin women. In fact, it will very likely cause harm.

Family planning clinics serve a vital access point for low income women in both urban and rural settings who otherwise would not see a healthcare provider for preventive screenings. AB 311 would essentially starve and close the rural clinics that provide critical healthcare services for women who may have no other options.

In short, WWWP has already made an ill-advised structural change reducing access for many women and these bills would further reduce access points. Let us hope we don't see legislators talking about the importance of breast cancer awareness and early detection during October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month, when they've promoted legislation that will reduce women's access to early detection.

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*For more information on the Wisconsin Well Woman Program including services offered and eligibility requirements, please visit: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/womenshealth/wwwwp/>*

*The mission of the WBCC is to unite Wisconsin voices about breast cancer by standing up and speaking out about breast cancer through education, collaboration and legislation. [www.standupandspeakout.org](http://www.standupandspeakout.org)*