



**For Immediate Release**  
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**COMPASSIONATE CARE SUPPORTERS GATHER THROUGHOUT STATE**  
**Community Day of Action Raises Awareness of Important Issue**

**Madison, WI-** Compassionate Care for Rape Victims Bill supporters are gathering throughout Wisconsin today to raise awareness and gather support for the needed legislation, which would ensure that rape victims learn about emergency contraception (EC) in every Wisconsin emergency room and receive the medication upon request.

Nine college campuses including Alverno College, Carthage College, UW Eau Claire, UW La Crosse, UW Madison, UW Milwaukee, UW Oshkosh, and UW River Falls are hosting CCRV Community Day of Action events today. Last night, UW Stevens Point students hosted a candlelight vigil honoring rape victims.

The Community Day of Action is one of a number of events and activities the Compassionate Care for Rape Victim Coalition has organized to make sure the voices of the people are heard on this important issue. The Coalition has dedicated the month of October in Wisconsin to ensuring the Assembly schedules a vote and passes the Compassionate Care for Rape Victims Bill (Assembly Bill 377 & Senate Bill 129) without amendments so it can become law.

“82 percent of Wisconsinites believe that Compassionate Care should be law. Today’s events will give them the opportunity to gather and learn more about what they can do to help pass this crucial legislation,” said Stephanie Erickson, Case Manager at the Bolton Refuge House in Eau Claire.

The original bill was overwhelmingly passed the Senate by a vote to 27 to 6 in May and is now ready to be scheduled for an Assembly floor vote. Despite the fact the Assembly Judiciary and Ethics Committee passed an amended version that gutted the legislation by allowing hospitals and health care providers to opt out, bipartisan support for the bill is growing and there’s increased pressure to vote on and pass the original version of the bill.

While AMA guidelines promote increased access to EC for rape victims, a recent CCRV Coalition study showed that only one-third of Wisconsin hospitals unconditionally provide EC to rape victims. In the United States, more than 25,000 women a year become pregnant as a result of rape. 16,000 of these pregnancies end in abortion. Passage of the original Compassionate Care for Rape Victims Bill is the only way to ensure that rape victims learn about EC and receive the medication upon request, regardless of where they seek care

“For these women, being able to make the choice about whether to take EC after an assault is a critical step in the healing process. That’s why making this bill law is the least we can do for victims of rape,” said Erickson.

*For more information regarding CCRV Month, please visit [www.supportwomenshealth.org](http://www.supportwomenshealth.org).*

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American College of Nurse Midwives - WI Chapter • Brown County Coalition for Women’s Health • Chippewa Valley Citizens for Women’s Health • Citizens for Women’s Health, Winnebago County • Community Advocates • Eau Claire County Coordinated Community Response Team • Friends of Abused Families, Inc. of Washington County • League of Women Voters of Wisconsin • Medical Students for Choice • NARAL Pro-Choice Wisconsin • National Association of Social Workers, WI Chapter • Options Fund, Inc • PAVE: People Against a Violent Environment, Beaver Dam • PAVE: Promoting Awareness, Victim Empowerment, Madison • Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin • Reach Counseling Services, Menasha • Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice WI • Republicans for Choice • Sexual Assault Treatment Center • Task Force on Family Violence • The Healing Center • United Council of UW Students • Wisconsin Alliance for Women’s Health • Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care • Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence • Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault • Wisconsin NOW • Wisconsin Women’s Network Reproductive Rights Task Force • Women’s Medical Fund