



For Immediate Release
December 12, 2007

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COALITION CELEBRATES COMPASSIONATE CARE VICTORY
Commends Assembly for passing long awaited rape victims legislation

Madison, WI- Members of the Compassionate Care for Rape Victims (CCRV) Coalition commend the State Assembly for passing Assembly Bill 377 by a vote of 56 to 41 late last night. The legislative authors of AB 377 who helped to make the victory possible include Representatives Mark Pocan of Madison and Terry Musser of Black River Falls. For a full list of legislators who voted in support of AB 377 go to:
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2007/data/votes/av0150.pdf>

The long awaited passage of the Compassionate Care for Rape Victims Bill ensures that rape victims learn about emergency contraception (EC) in every Wisconsin emergency room, and receive the medication upon request.

EC is a high concentration of birth control pills that prevents pregnancy if taken within 120 hours of an assault. EC is at least 89 percent effective when taken within 72 hours. The sooner taken, the more effective EC is in preventing a pregnancy. EC has no effect on an existing pregnancy.

While American Medical Association guidelines promote increased access to EC for rape victims, a 2006 CCRV Coalition study showed that only one-third of Wisconsin hospitals unconditionally provide EC to rape victims. In the U.S., more than 25,000 women a year become pregnant as a result of rape. 16,000 of these pregnancies end in abortion.

“Providing rape victims with the comprehensive, quality care they deserve is long overdue,” said Barb Wise, a rape survivor from Chippewa Falls. “After years of efforts to raise awareness of this issue, it’s extremely rewarding to witness the passage of this bill.”

Members of the CCRV Coalition are grateful support of the Republican legislators who made the difference, including Jeff Wood of Chippewa Falls, “Doc” Hines of Oxford, Terry Moulton of Chippewa Falls, Gary Tauchen of Bonduel, Brett Davis of Oregon and Dean Kaufert of Neenah. The Coalition also thanks Representatives Seidel, Hraychuck, Schneider, Hintz and Wasserman who spoke out in support of AB 377 on the floor last night.

“Passing this legislation is the least we can do to avoid re-victimizing a victim of rape,” states Keeley Crowley, Coordinator of Holy Family Memorial’s Sexual Assault Resource Center in Manitowoc. “We now look forward to Governor Doyle signing this legislation into law next year and ensuring Wisconsin rape victims are given the comprehensive and compassionate care they deserve.”

For more information regarding Compassionate Care for Rape Victims, please visit: www.supportwomenshealth.org.

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