



For Immediate Release
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COALITION CELEBRATES FINAL ASSEMBLY APPROVAL
Senate and Governor Set to Pass Bill into Law for Rape Victims

Madison, WI- Following a 61 to 35 vote for final passage of Assembly Bill 377 yesterday, members of the Compassionate Care for Rape Victims (CCRV) Coalition celebrated yet another victory towards helping rape victims receive the care they need and deserve in Wisconsin. The legislation is now slated to be sent to the Senate for concurrence and is expected to be signed into law by the Governor this session.

Yesterday's final 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.

"While it's disappointing that Assembly leadership has delayed the final passage of this bill, it's a huge relief to know that compassionate and comprehensive care will soon be provided to all rape victims in Wisconsin," said Amanda Harrington, a rape survivor from Milwaukee. "I look forward to joining Governor Doyle as he signs this critical legislation into law in the coming months."

Members of the CCRV Coalition are grateful to continued leadership of Representatives Terry Musser and Mark Pocan and thank Representatives Hraychuck, Musser, Parisi, Pocan, Schneider, Seidel and Wasserman who spoke out in support of AB 377 on the floor yesterday.

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

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