



For Immediate Release
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COALITION CELEBRATES VICTORY FOR COMPASSIONATE CARE
Looks Forward to Bill Signing

Madison, WI- Following a 25 to 6 Senate vote for concurrence today, members of the Compassionate Care for Rape Victims (CCRV) Coalition are celebrating an incredible victory for Assembly Bill 377 which ensures all rape victims receive the care they need and deserve in Wisconsin hospitals. The legislation is now slated to be signed into law by the Governor in the next couple weeks.

By a vote of 61 to 35 in January, the Assembly voted to pass the Compassionate Care for Rape Victims Bill to ensure that rape victims learn about the option to prevent a pregnancy with emergency contraception (EC) in every Wisconsin emergency room and receive the medication upon request.

“After six long years of working on this issue, today marks an incredible victory for all of us who have fought to ensure rape victims receive the standard of care in Wisconsin,” said Mike Murray with the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault. “We wish to congratulate all of our Coalition members and legislators like Representative Terry Musser, Representative Pocan, and Senator Robson who served as champions for Compassionate Care.”

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.

“It means so much to know that compassionate and comprehensive care will soon be guaranteed to all rape victims seen in Wisconsin emergency rooms”, 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 weeks.”

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

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