



**For Immediate Release**  
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**STATE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD ADDS ITS SUPPORT TO COMPASSIONATE CARE**  
**Widespread Support Sends Message to Legislators: Pass Bill to Provide Standard of Care**

**Madison, WI-** Wisconsin's Medical Examining Board, which licenses, certifies and regulates physicians, recently added its name to a long list of organizations supporting the Compassionate Care for Rape Victims Bill (AB 377 & SB 129). The enclosed letter, sent on behalf of the Medical Examining Board, was sent to Assembly Judiciary Committee Chair Mark Gundrum (R-New Berlin) urging passage of the bill. In it, the Board states its belief that "it is the obligation of hospitals in Wisconsin to reduce the burden of receiving health care."

**The Medical Examining Board joins the following list of those supporting Compassionate Care for Rape Victims:**

**American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin, Inc.**  
**American College of Nurse-Midwives (WI Chapter)**  
**Chippewa Valley Citizens for Women's Health**  
**Community Advocates**  
**Concerned Citizens for Women's Health - Winnebago**  
**Friends of Abused Families, Inc. of Washington**  
**County**  
**Institute for One Wisconsin**  
**League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Inc**  
**Medical Students for Choice**  
**NARAL Pro-Choice Wisconsin**  
**National Association of Social Workers - Wisconsin**  
**Chapter**  
**One Wisconsin Now, Inc.**  
**Options Fund, Inc.**  
**PAVE: People Against a Violent Environment**  
**PAVE: Promoting Awareness, Victim Empowerment**  
**Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin**  
**Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin Inc**  
**Rape Crisis Center of Dane County**  
**REACH Counseling Services, Menasha**  
**Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice - WI**  
**Republicans for Choice**

**Sexual Assault Treatment Center**  
**Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners - WI**  
**State Bar of Wisconsin**  
**Taskforce on Family Violence**  
**The Healing Center**  
**United Council of UW Students**  
**Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health**  
**Wisconsin Association of Perinatal Care**  
**Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments**  
**and Boards**  
**Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence**  
**Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault**  
**Wisconsin Council on Children & Families**  
**Wisconsin Family Planning & Reproductive Health**  
**Association**  
**Wisconsin NOW**  
**Wisconsin Nurses Association**  
**Wisconsin Public Health Association**  
**Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association**  
**Women's Medical Fund**  
**Wisconsin Women's Network - Reproductive Rights**  
**Taskforce**

In addition to the organizational support, 82 percent of Wisconsin voters support Compassionate Care for Rape Victims legislation and want to ensure that rape victims are provided the opportunity to prevent pregnancy following sexual assault.

*For more information regarding Compassionate Care for Rape Victims, 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

Jim Doyle  
Governor

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September 6, 2007

THE HONORABLE MARK GUNDRUM  
CHAIR, ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND ETHICS  
ROOM 119 WEST  
STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 8952  
MADISON WI 53708

Re: Assembly Bill 377 and Senate Bill 129

Dear Representative Gundrum:

At its meeting on June 20, 2007, the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board in a unanimous vote expressed its support for Assembly Bill 377 and Senate Bill 129 and directed me to convey this support to you. We appreciate your decision to hold a hearing on these bills.

Passage of this legislation would help to ensure the responsiveness of hospitals to women who experience the trauma of sexual assault. Offering timely information and emergency contraception to rape victims who request it is a vital health care service that should not be voluntary. We believe it is the obligation of hospitals in Wisconsin to reduce the burden of receiving health care. Delivering all necessary services in a timely manner is critical in the aftermath of a sexual assault, which carries with it a significant psychological component.

While we recognize that some religious organizations and other groups oppose this legislation, we also note that availability of emergency contraception is supported by the great majority of the citizens of Wisconsin in addition to the American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

The Board urges you to act favorably on Assembly Bill 377 and Senate Bill 129.

Sincerely,

Gene Musser, MD  
Chair, Wisconsin Medical Examining Board

c: Members of the Assembly  
Committee on Judiciary and Ethics

The Honorable Judith Robson  
Wisconsin State Senator

The Honorable Jim Doyle  
Governor

The Honorable Terry Musser  
Wisconsin State Representative