

Dear Editor:

The Compassionate Care for Rape Victims Bill deserves a fair hearing and vote in the State Assembly. The bill would ensure that hospitals provide medically accurate information about emergency contraception to rape victims and dispense it to them upon their request.

Emergency contraception is a high dose of birth control. It cannot terminate a pregnancy. It can only work by preventing pregnancy. It is a safe, effective and humane way to stop a sex offender from continuing to control a woman's body.

At the Senate hearing for the bill over a dozen victims gave emotional and personal testimony. A common theme rang out: victims deserve the right to regain control of their lives. It is unconscionable that some emergency rooms deny victims the opportunity to regain this control by refusing to provide emergency contraception. The bill passed overwhelmingly with a bipartisan vote in the Senate and now moves on to the Assembly, where according to some reports in the news media it will die.

These strong and courageous women did not go through the ordeal of testifying publicly about such personal experiences in order for the bill to be killed by procedural maneuvers. They, and all other victims across the state, deserve a fair hearing and vote.

Sincerely,

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Dear Editor:

Victims of rape across Wisconsin deserve the support of the State Assembly on a very important bill. The Compassionate Care for Rape Victims Bill (SB 129/AB 377), which would provide emergency contraception to survivors of sexual assault in emergency rooms, overwhelmingly passed the State Senate on a bipartisan vote. It also has the support of over 80% of voters. The bill is now awaiting action in the State Assembly.

The bill is incredibly important to rape victims because it would give them the opportunity to protect their bodies, families and futures from the continuing control of a sex offender. No victim of sexual assault should have a pregnancy literally forced upon her.

Emergency contraception is a high dose of birth control. It works by preventing fertilization or ovulation. It has no effect on an established pregnancy.

The time is now for the State Assembly to have an open debate and vote on this bill so that it can become law as soon as possible. This issue is too important to delay.

Sincerely,