

Jim Doyle
Governor

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REGULATION & LICENSING

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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