

## Rothman Unveils Legislation Requiring Federally-Funded Hospitals To Offer Rape Victims Emergency Con

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Rothman Unveils Legislation Requiring Federally-Funded Hospitals To Offer Rape Victims Emergency Contraception  
"Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies" Measure Introduced As Part Of Broader Pregnancy Prevention Bill

Washington, DC - With the pro-choice March for Women's Lives just days away, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) joined a bipartisan group of his congressional colleagues to introduce a sweeping pregnancy prevention bill that includes a provision Rothman co-authored to require federally-funded hospitals to always offer Emergency Contraception (EC) to rape victims. Rothman's "Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies (CARE)" measure, which he co-authored with Congressman Jim Greenwood (R-PA8), is included with six other provisions in the "Putting Prevention First Act" that was announced at a morning news conference on Capitol Hill today.

"I am very pleased that our 'Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies' measure is included in this bill to ensure that rape and sexual assault victims get the proper care and emergency contraception they need when they are rushed to a hospital after surviving an assault," Rothman said. "Guaranteeing a victim the right to emergency contraception will help prevent an estimated 22,000 pregnancies a year caused by sexual assault. Statistics show that every two minutes a woman is sexually assaulted in the United States. Each and every one of those women deserves to know that we support her and that she has a right to full medical treatment including emergency contraception, no matter what hospital she goes to for treatment."

Rothman's "CARE" measure requires hospitals that receive federal funding to provide rape survivors with information about EC so victims can make an informed decision and then get access to EC if desired. Emergency Contraceptive Pills (ECPs) are the most commonly used method of EC, which is an FDA-approved method of pregnancy prevention. ECPs are simply higher doses of regular birth control pills, which reduce a woman's risk of becoming pregnant by up to 95 percent when taken within 72 hours of intercourse. EC does not cause abortion; it works by inhibiting ovulation or fertilization, or by preventing the implantation of a fertilized egg before a pregnancy can occur.

The "Putting Prevention First Act," in which Rothman's "CARE" measure is included, contains a variety of family planning and women's health initiatives that seek to expand access to preventive health care services and education programs that help reduce unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and the number of abortions.

"It is imperative that as a nation we provide all of the resources and tools to women that will allow them to have full control over their reproductive lives," Rothman said.

The "Putting Prevention First Act" now moves to the committee level in the House. Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) today introduced identical legislation in the Senate.

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