



PO Box 1327 • Madison WI 53701-1327
608-268-5074 (Madison) • 866-849-2536 (toll-free) • 608-256-3370 (fax)
Email: info@wisconsinfamilyaction.org
Web site: www.wisconsinfamilyaction.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 6, 2007

Contact: Julaine K. Appling, President or Judith Brant, Media Contact
Phone: 608-268-50784 (Madison); 866-849-2536 (toll-free)
Fax: 608-256-3370
Email: media@wisconsinfamilyaction.org

PROPOSED BILLS TROUNCE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS
*So-called “Compassionate Care” bills show no compassion and
no care for rights of hospitals or hospital workers*

MADISON — “If Assembly Bill 377 or Senate Bill 129 pass in their present form, Wisconsin will be anything but progressive. Denying citizens their constitutionally provided freedom of speech and freedom to exercise their religious beliefs is oppressive, not progressive,” said Julaine Appling, president of Wisconsin Family Action. “However, Assembly Bill 377 and its Senate companion, SB 129, do just that. Under the guise of ‘compassionate care,’ these bills outright rob Wisconsin’s religiously-affiliated hospitals and hospital staff of their constitutional rights.”

Dubbed the “Compassionate Care” bills by proponents, Assembly 377 and Senate Bill 129 would require all Wisconsin hospitals to inform victims of sexual assault that so-called “emergency contraception” is available and to give it to them if they request it. The bills make no exception for religiously-based hospitals or for hospital staff who know “emergency contraception” can result in an abortion by preventing implantation of a fertilized egg.

“Even if we agreed with these bills in every other way—which we most assuredly don’t—we’d still have a major concern with the constitutionality issue. Victims of sexual assault definitely need ‘compassionate care,’ but that care does not have to come at the expense of the rights of hospitals and their employees,” added Appling.

The bills are receiving a public hearing today in the Assembly Committee on Judiciary and Ethics, chaired by Rep. Mark Gundrum (R-New Berlin). Wisconsin Family Action will provide testimony at the hearing.

Wisconsin Family Action, the legislative action arm of Wisconsin Family Council, is a statewide organization advocating for the strengthening and preserving of marriage, family, life and liberty in Wisconsin.