

HB 520 -- Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies (CARE) Act

Sponsor: Oxford

This bill establishes the Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies (CARE) Act which allows any health care facility that provides emergency care to sexual assault victims to give a victim information regarding emergency contraception, inform the victim of her option to be provided emergency contraception, and provide a complete regimen of emergency contraception if requested. The health care provider must follow federal Department of Justice protocols on HIV/STI screening and prophylactic treatment. An emergency health care facility must ensure that the victim is treated by a provider who has medically and factually accurate, objective information about emergency contraception.

The Department of Health and Senior Services must:

- (1) Develop, prepare, and produce informational materials regarding emergency contraception for the prevention of pregnancy for distribution in any health care facility in the state. The materials must be medically and factually accurate and objective; comprehensible; provide an explanation of the use, safety, efficacy, and availability of emergency contraception; and explain that it does not cause an abortion;
- (2) Respond to complaints and periodically perform compliance checks on emergency health care facilities. If a facility is not in compliance, the department will impose a \$5,000 administrative penalty per woman who is denied the informational materials or who is not offered emergency contraception and a \$5,000 administrative penalty for failure to comply with the CARE Act with an additional \$5,000 penalty for every 30 days of non-compliance; and
- (3) Establish rules to implement the act.