

Cooper, Kathy

2577

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From: Roberta Weiner [rweiner@lbhonline.org]

Sent: Monday, September 24, 2007 2:28 PM

To: IRRRC

Subject: #10-182 (#2577)

2007 SEP 25 AM 8:55

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

To Whom It May Concern, I am writing to address the current regulations that allow hospitals to transport victims of rape to another hospital rather than provide Emergency Contraception to them. This will be ineffective for many reasons. First of all, it is incredibly difficult for rape victims to come forward and ask for help. Now that they have they will be asked to go to another hospital and possibly have to tell their story over again? Some women may not follow through thereby increasing the chances of an unwanted pregnancy. Another issue is that women cannot eat, drink, urinate or defecate before the rape exam is done. Delaying this procedure increase the chance that they will have to perform one of these functions and compromise the results of the rape exam. In addition, if a woman has to go to a nearby pharmacy for emergency contraception and they don't stock it, the delays increase the chances of pregnancy. A 12 hour delay inobtaining emergency contraception increases pregnancy by as much as 50%. Increases in unwanted pregnancies increases the possibility of having an unwanted child or having an abortion. It is imperitive that all hospitals are mandated to provide Emergency Contraception to woman who are raped. She did not ask to have a child with a man who forced his body into hers. She deserves to have choices and to have the hospital that is caring for her to provide accessibility to these choices as she goes through this horrific process. Thank you for listening. Roberta Weiner, LCSW.

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