



Ohio House of Representatives
State Representative Dan Stewart

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Rep. Stewart Introduces Legislation to Expand Access to Contraception
CARE Act and Contraceptive Equity Legislation Focus on Women's Health Care

COLUMBUS – State Representative Dan Stewart (D-Columbus) has introduced a pair of bills aimed at improving women's health care. One bill (House Bill 333) would expand a woman's access to contraception following a rape. The other piece of legislation (HB 332) requires insurance policies to cover prescription contraceptive drugs and devices.

"Women deserve these protections," Rep. Stewart said. "Contraceptives are a value medical tool for a number of situations, and women should have better access and insurance coverage to the health care they need. In addition, reducing unintended pregnancies will reduce the number of abortions."

The Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies (CARE) Act (HB 333) would:

- Require hospitals providing emergency medical care to rape victims to give information about emergency contraception and, if requested, to dispense emergency contraception
- Require hospital personnel to discuss and offer prophylactic treatment for sexually transmitted infections based on current guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Require hospital personnel to provide victims of sexual assault with resources for obtaining follow-up care
- Provide a civil course of action to any individual who believes a hospital has failed to comply with the requirements of the legislation.

The other bill, Contraceptive Equity (HB 332) would require certain health insurers to cover prescription contraceptive drugs and devices, if that provider covers other prescriptions, as well as outpatient services related to the provision of such drugs and devices. "If your insurance covers Viagra, it sure ought to cover family planning," Rep. Stewart said.

Both bills now await assignment to the appropriate Ohio House committees.