

SB 1343

# State of Connecticut

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Testimony of Comptroller Nancy Wyman  
Before the Human Services Committee Public Hearing  
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Good morning Senator Harris, Representative Villano and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee. I am State Comptroller Nancy Wyman and I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of Raised Senate Bill 1343 "An Act Concerning Compassionate Care For Victims of Sexual Assault".

Senate Bill 1343 states that any health care facility that is a participating provider of services under any of the state's medical assistance programs would be required to provide information on emergency contraception; as well as honor all requests from sexual assault victims for the dispensing of such medications.

Sexual assault victims need prompt medical attention. I believe it is vitally important that all legal prescriptions are available when a patient needs them. Emergency contraception is intended to prevent a pregnancy. The chance of a pregnancy resulting from a sexual assault can be greatly reduced if Plan B is administered to a victim within the first 24 hours following the assault.

Female victims of a sexual assault should be treated with compassion during a time of trauma and pain. Plan B is available over the counter to adults, but we should ensure that everyone woman or girl knows that she can avoid the trauma of a pregnancy resulting from a sexual assault and that it will be provided upon request.

My office with the assistance of Attorney General Blumenthal worked with Wal-Mart to make sure that Plan B would be available to woman in Connecticut when it was indicated that they did not intend on stocking the "Plan B" emergency contraception in all of their Connecticut stores.

I felt strongly that Wal-Mart as a participant in the State's insurance network could not selectively choose which drugs to provide. I believed that if the arbitrary selection of what drugs to honor continued; the State would have no choice but to explore options to have Wal-Mart removed from the state network.

I'm pleased that Wal-Mart recognized their responsibilities and worked with our office on "acceptable" contingency plans even in instances of "conscientious objection" by an employed pharmacist. A workable solution can and needs to be found.

Our first priority as elected officials should always be to ensure that its participating providers make available necessary and appropriate treatment and services to all of our residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.