

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE



Support. Advocate. Prevent.

Good afternoon. My name is Bridget Koestner, and I am the Campus Services Coordinator with the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence. The Alliance is the state's leading voice to end sexual violence and a coalition of community-based sexual assault crisis centers. I want to thank Senator Haskell, Representative Kokoruda, and members of the Every Voice CT for their partnership in creating safer universities and colleges in Connecticut.

The Alliance has worked closely with legislators in previous years to pass Public Act 14-11 and Public Act 16-106, which enhanced the rights of survivors on college and university campuses. Connecticut has long been on the forefront of anti-sexual misconduct legislation in higher education. These were developed with our college and university partners to create practices for prevention and response to sexual misconduct on campus. This new legislation is a natural extension and next step of that work to measure the success of our prevention programming and response to survivors while continuing the state's leadership on this issue.

According to national statistics, one in five women and one in sixteen men will experience an attempted or completed sexual assault while in college. Additionally, the majority of all sexual assaults on college campuses take place between August and November, a period of time commonly referred to as the "Red Zone." This legislation will help us to get a better sense of what these statistics look like in our own state, as well as the level of satisfaction campus communities have in prevention and response efforts already in place during the "Red Zone" and throughout the school year. Connecticut is already a national leader in responding to sexual violence in our campuses, and this understanding can only aid in our ongoing prevention and response efforts.

We can also continue to protect campuses and prevent future sexual misconduct through the amnesty provision in this legislation. Amnesty will open up the options survivors have for reporting to their institutions without fear. It will create environments where students can report without feeling blamed for what has happened, because sexual violence is never a survivor's fault.

Lastly, if you or someone you know is a survivor of sexual violence, please call our hotline or go to our website (endsexualviolenceCT.org) for information or to be linked to services. We are here to support you.

Thank you all for your continued partnership. Together we can end campus sexual misconduct and support survivors.

Bridget Koestner
Campus Services Coordinator
The Connecticut Alliance to End Violence
bridget@endsexualviolenceCT.org

www.endsexualviolencect.org | 860-282-9881

