



Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Supporting House Bill 6374, An Act Concerning Sexual Misconduct on College Campuses

Senator Haskell, Representative Elliott, Ranking Members Haines and Witkos, and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Committee:

My name is Kelly McConney Moore, and I am the interim senior policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 6374, An Act Concerning Sexual Misconduct on College Campuses.

The ACLU-CT supports meaningful reforms aimed at holding educational institutions accountable when they fail to respond to gender-based violence. We also support efforts to empower people who have experienced sexual assault or intimate partner violence. Our state's educational institutions must do more to stop sexual violence, which disproportionately harms women and LGBTQ people. Sexual assault and intimate partner violence devalue women's and LGBTQ people's lives and can deprive a person of equal and free access to an education, and full participation in college campus activities. We therefore support the provisions of House Bill 6374 which protect students and employees who, in good faith, report sexual assaults and intimate partner violence in good faith. We recognize that there are often significant barriers to reporting sexual violence and this measure will remove one such barrier – fear of the consequences of necessarily disclosing the survivor's violation of a collegiate rule or policy.

We also support the provision in House Bill 6374 to establish a Council on Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey. Studying the problems with sexual assault, stalking, and intimate partner violence on higher education campuses will provide deeper knowledge of the contours of these persistent problems. More knowledge, especially coming from people with direct, lived experience, will help shape better solutions in the future. We therefore encourage this Committee to support House Bill 6374.