



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

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QuickTakes!

Campus Sexual Assault is Focus of Legislative Hearing

October 20, 2015

The New Jersey Senate Higher Education Committee met on Monday, October 19, 2015 and received testimony from invited speakers on campus sexual assaults, including NJASCU members Ramapo College, Rowan University, The College of New Jersey, Kean University, and William Paterson University.

The following bills were considered:

- **S-2812** (Barnes/Cunningham) / **A-4156** (Vainieri Huttle/Lampitt) – Establishes a task force to study issues related to sexual assault on college campuses. NJASCU supports this bill.
- **S-2916** (Cruz/Perez) – Ensures equal rights and opportunities for pregnant graduate students in institutions of higher education. NJASCU supports this bill.
- **S-3214** (Barnes/Cunningham) – Requires each institution of higher education to establish Sexual Violence Prevention Advisory Board. Bill is pending introduction and referral. NJASCU has no position.

The two bills sponsored by Senator Peter J. Barnes and Senator Sandra B. Cunningham aim to protect college students from sexual assaults and to reduce violence on college campuses by establishing a task force and requiring institutions of higher education to conduct campus climate surveys through an advisory board was approved today by the Senate Higher Education Committee. The bills are in response to the growing concern of sexual assault incidents on college campuses across the country. According to the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault, one in five women is sexually assaulted in college, nationally. A study conducted by the Rutgers Center on Violence Against Women and Children along with the White House Task Force concluded that in order to effectively address sexual assaults at institutions, states must first identify the scope of the problem on its campuses. The following two bills help address this issue by establishing a sexual assault task force and an advisory board aimed at improving current practices and policies at colleges and universities. The bill was voted out of committee and now heads to the Senate.

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*The College of New Jersey
Kean University
Montclair State University*

*New Jersey City University
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Rowan University*

*Stockton University
Thomas Edison State College
William Paterson University*

Legislation sponsored by Assembly Democrats Valerie Vainieri, Pamela Lampitt, Joe Lagana, Raj Mukherji, Annette Quijano, and Joe Danielson to better equip New Jersey colleges and universities to prevent and respond to sexual assaults on campus was released Monday by the Senate Higher Education Committee. The 2014 report from the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault revealed that one in five college students experiences sexual assault during their college career. Even more staggering, the ACLU estimates that 95 percent of U.S. campus rapes go unreported. The bill was approved by the full Assembly in June. It now heads to the Senate for final legislative approval.