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# House Bill 3122

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## House Bill 3122

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### House Bill 3122

The purpose of this bill is to require state institutions of higher education and community and technical colleges to implement policies and programs relating to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, including adoption of an “affirmative consent” standard in conduct rules and disciplinary proceedings at each institution.

### Position

I am in support of this bill because it targets colleges, sets a code of conduct that is victim-centered, and installs a requirement of preventative and outreach programs.

### Targets Colleges

The establishment of these programs at universities is important because “20-25% college women and 15% of college men are victims of forced sex during their time in college” (National Sexual Violence Resource Center). More than 90% of these individuals do not report, so the establishment of these policies in order to facilitate reporting is crucial to not only assist victims in reporting, but to prevent assaults from occurring.

### House Bill 3122 Impact

This bill is an important step to reducing the far too common occurrence of sexual assault on college campuses. In passing something of this stature, the priority of victim safety is clear, and it shows that sexual assault is something that will no longer be swept under the rug. As a sexual assault survivor, I have benefitted from these types of programs on campus. Rape is the most under-reported crime but facilitating the process for and protecting victims will lead to a reduction of this crisis. Without policies like this, victims such as myself may never receive justice and the impact on our lives may be much worse.



### Sets a Victim-Centered Code of Conduct

WVU’s Title IX division outlines sexual misconduct by the Board of Governors Policy 44 in Section 4.4. This section defines sexual misconduct, sexual intercourse, and consent in a way that is consistent with the bill’s stipulations. The inclusion of an in-depth definition of consent and when it cannot be given helps victims receive justice by reducing the likelihood of the perpetrator not being held accountable due to vague policy wording.



### Installs a Requirement of Preventative and Outreach Programs

Since sexual assault is such a large issue on college campuses, a major component to tackling the issue is implementing programs to prevent these situations through education. WVU as an institution requires that every incoming student complete online Title IX training composed of a sexual assault prevention for undergraduates as well as AlcoholEdu for college. Many individuals do not realize how common sexual assault is on campus, so the education of all students helps prevent individuals from becoming victims. Furthermore, the clear outline of what is prohibited conduct allows individuals to better know what is inappropriate behavior and the consequences of such actions.