



National Alliance to
End Sexual Violence

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PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HALT Act Supports Survivors by Holding Institutions Accountable and Increasing Transparency to End Sexual Violence

The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence applauds Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D-CA) and Congressman Patrick Meehan (R-PA) for introducing the Hold Accountable and Lend Transparency (HALT) Campus Sexual Violence Act.

HALT addresses campus sexual violence through a multi-pronged approach of accountability, transparency, and coordination. The creation of a federal interagency task force will increase coordination between agencies and enhance investigations. In addition to increasing penalties for Clery Act violations and requiring the U.S. Department of Education to issue penalties for noncompliance with civil rights requirements under its authority, including Title IX, and making public the list of institutions under investigations and any sanctions or resolution agreements, institutions would be required to conduct biennial climate surveys. Climate surveys can help institutions better ascertain the extent and nature of sexual violence on individual campuses. Partnerships with state sexual assault coalitions and local rape crisis centers, often funded by the federal Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) Program, are essential partners to help provide training and technical assistance about evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies to prevent sexual violence.

By creating a private right of action and expanding requirements for institutions to both notify and publicly post students' legal rights and institutional obligations under Title IX, survivors will have greater access to resources outside the institution and increased access to justice. "Often survivors are not aware of their legal rights under Title IX," said Monika Johnson Hostler, NAESV President. "HALT's increased funding of \$5 million for Title IX and Clery investigators will also provide critical support to processing survivors' complaints in a timely manner and can provide institutions with remedies for better addressing campus sexual violence."

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About NAESV:

The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence is the voice in Washington for state sexual assault coalitions and local rape crisis centers working to end sexual violence and support survivors. For more information, visit www.endsexualviolence.org, <https://twitter.com/endsxlviolece> and <https://www.facebook.com/endsxlviolece>.