



Office of the President

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January 17, 2017

The Honorable Ron Johnson
United States Senator
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Johnson:

As you know, UW System student representatives were in Washington, D.C. last week to discuss their 2017 federal agenda, and they urged Congress to prioritize the issue of sexual assault on college campuses. Sexual violence and sexual assault on college and university campuses are matters of national importance.

To that end, I want you to know that the UW System convened a “Task Force on Sexual Violence and Harassment.” In early December, the Task Force presented its findings to the UW Board of Regents and its recommendations were approved for adoption.

The UW System Task Force on Sexual Violence and Harassment report can be accessed here: https://www.wisconsin.edu/sexual-abuse-prevention/download/svh_report/UWS-SVHReport.pdf.

Some of the key recommendations include:

- System-wide sexual violence and harassment training for all employees and students. Training will be primarily based online to help ensure it is accessible for everyone, and can be completed easily and in a timely fashion. Training topics include healthy relationships, bystander intervention, and the Campus SaVE Act. Training for students is already underway, and employee training will be completed by the end of the current academic year.
- Development of a UW System website that efficiently connects victims of sexual violence or harassment with campus support services, such as counseling and medical assistance, reporting information, and other resources. The site, which is expected to launch shortly, will also serve as a clearinghouse for system policies, procedures and data, as well as state and federal laws, other reports, and research.

- A new comprehensive Board of Regents' policy, which consolidates formerly separate sexual violence and harassment policies and will serve as a template to assist UW institutions in efficiently adopting consistent policies across the UW System. The Task Force also recommended revising the existing policy on consensual relationships to help mitigate potential conflicts when there is a real or perceived conflict of interest and power differential.
- Creation of an inter-educational collaborative effort bringing together education shareholders from K-12 schools, technical colleges, private colleges, and the UW System to discuss and share research and approaches to address sexual violence and harassment.

As reauthorization of the Higher Education Opportunity Act moves forward in the 115th Congress, we look forward to working with you to address sexual violence and harassment on our campuses and nationally. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Kris Andrews, Associate Vice President for Federal Relations, at 608-263-3362 or kandrews@uwsa.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Cross". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ray Cross

Universities: Madison, Milwaukee, Eau Claire, Green Bay, La Crosse, Oshkosh, Parkside, Platteville, River Falls, Stevens Point, Stout, Superior, Whitewater. Colleges: Baraboo/Sauk County, Barron County, Fond du Lac, Fox Valley, Manitowoc, Marathon County, Marinette, Marshfield/Wood County, Richland, Rock County, Sheboygan, Washington County, Waukesha. Extension: Statewide.