

Elizabeth Charash, UConn

In support of S.B. 636, An Act Concerning Affirmative Consent

When I look at the reports of the amount of women my age that get sexually assaulted, I am disgusted and horrified. One in five of my fellow female college classmates, with whom I interact with on daily basis, will be assaulted. To put that into further perspective, of the 45 girls that live on my dorm floor, nine will be attacked.

When I walk back from classes at night, I constantly scan the landscape of UConn to make sure that I will not become just another statistic that is compiled by the bureaucratic agencies that report to the nation of growing trends.

When I sit down in a large lecture, I think to myself which one of these people could hurt me or another woman in my position?

Which one of these individuals are enveloped in rape culture and see it as their right to take advantage of those they see as lesser?

Which one of these people, see that it is within their authority to completely change the landscape an unsuspecting victim's life?

It is with pieces of legislation like Yes Means Yes that the statistics of women harmed can be dropped. It is with government action and recognition of this systemic culture that we are able to assist not just the victims of this case, but the perpetrators who think it is okay to complete such an action. This problem can not be attributed to just one individual, but to a society who deems it okay to stand to the side and let our young girls and grown women get attacked. We must act

now and legislate so that another one in five will not be attacked. Think of your daughters, sisters, wives, friends and various others that you care about, and how you would feel if this happened to them.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Charash