

# -YALE COLLEGE- DEMOCRATS

February 26, 2014

Testimony of Josh Hochman  
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In favor: S.B. No. 636  
An Act Concerning Affirmative Consent

As college students, there is a whole host of focuses we have on a daily basis – academics, extracurricular activities, talking to professors, career plans, and engaging with our community. But it's impossible to focus on all of that if we're concerned about our own safety. And it's becoming quite clear that our safety as students isn't just how comfortable we feel on the street, but how comfortable we feel in our dorm rooms. Affirmative consent is a vital part of making sure that *all* students have that peace of mind.

While this legislation would change the official standard for romantic activity on college campuses, it shouldn't change much for most healthy relationships. After all, affirmative consent does not require that partners ask each other awkward questions, but just that a student is certain that his or her partner is on the same page. That's certainly not a radical shift from what's already expected, regardless of what is actually the current state legal standard. And by ensuring that partners are sure of each other's wishes, sexual pressure can be significantly reduced for students, of both genders.

I hope that the legislature will take this bill into strong consideration, as it would do no harm to those who already engage in consensual activity, but would ensure that coercion and uncertainty are eliminated in the bedroom.