

Anthony Patrone  
Vice Chair for State Affairs, UConn Storrs Undergraduate Student Government External Affairs  
Committee  
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SB 966

Committee members,

My name is Anthony Patrone. I am the vice-chairman of state affairs for the External Affairs Committee of the Undergraduate Student Government at the University of Connecticut. I am also a resident of Storrs.

As everyone in this room knows, sexual assault is a despicable epidemic of the highest concern on college campuses across the state and country. It is each of our duty to do what we can to prevent sexual assault. It is also our duty to provide the best care available to victims of these atrocious acts and to pursue justice to the best of our ability on their behalf.

A victim of sexual assault at the University of Connecticut will be transported to Windham Hospital, often by ambulance, where they will wait for a S.A.F.E. nurse to arrive. It is widely understood that many victims of sexual assault will never report it. We must make it easier, safer, and more accessible for victims of sexual assault to report the crime. This bill does that. By allowing the University of Connecticut to use its infirmary, a venue equipped to serve the community of 18,000 proud huskies, we can make it easier for victims to report their attacker, and easier for law enforcement officials to prosecute the perpetrators.

It is our obligation to protect every victim of sexual assault. Individuals who have suffered through these unspeakable crimes deserve to receive the care they need from well-trained experts on campus. Changing this law will only make it easier for victims who are facing an unimaginable situation. This is a common sense reform to a remarkably successful program that has responded to over 500 sexual assault cases since its inception in December 2010. It is only right to extend the scope of the S.A.F.E. program to protect thousands of college students where they live and learn.

Respectfully,  
Anthony Patrone