

-YALE COLLEGE- DEMOCRATS

Testimony of Daniel Vernick
Legislative Captain, Yale College Democrats

February 2016
345 Temple St., Suite H21
New Haven, CT 06511

In favor: H.B.5376
An Act Concerning Affirmative Consent.

Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee:

Students across Connecticut are coming together to stand up for a more positive sexual climate on campus. H.B.5376 is a step toward decreasing the unacceptable number of sexual assaults and ensuring a more supportive environment for victims.

An affirmative “yes means yes” policy not only is far more effective than “no means no,” but creates a more comfortable sexual atmosphere. Affirmative consent sets a standard that takes the pressure off of the victim and creates a more comfortable environment for victims of sexual assault. After going through the arduous process of appealing a sexual assault, victims should be able to avoid a painful debate on their own consent.

Affirmative consent clarifies and simplifies the process. One of the best ways to reduce sexual assault is through education; the bill’s language ensuring students understand consent will make a big difference.

Connecticut students believe that H.B. 5376 will foster a safer and more positive climate on college campuses across the state.