

Hello, and thank you all for the opportunity to be here today and testify in support of HB 2266, on an issue that is very important to me.

I address you all today as a student who has been heavily involved in campus discussions about sexual assault policy reform, but, more importantly, I feel, as a survivor of sexual assault myself.

While there are no "magic pill" solutions to the complicated issue of campus sexual assault, the creation by universities of affirmative consent policies as outlined in HB 2266 is an excellent foundation to build upon.

Universities currently struggle to adequately investigate instances of sexual harassment and impose sanctions on perpetrators both for the safety of the victim and the education of the perpetrator. The installation of an affirmative consent policy will help to make these investigations more clear cut by providing a simple, clear standard for behavior. Was affirmative, sober, and non-coerced consent provided by both parties for the act? If so, then no further investigation is necessary.

This clear standard serves to benefit universities, victims, and would-be-perpetrators by eliminating potential for misunderstanding. Those concerned about false allegations can rest assured that if a clear, non-coerced "yes" was given, then policy is on their side. Universities will benefit from the reduction of murkiness on an already difficult issue. Finally, victims will also have a clear standard that will aid in reducing self doubt and make filing a complaint more clear cut.

While I cannot change what happened to me at the age of 15, I hope to see others spared from both the pain of sexual assault or the worry of false allegations via the passage of this bill and the

establishment of an affirmative consent standard.

Thank you for your time.

Emma Halling.