

U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY



CHAIRMAN Special Committee on Aging

The Safe Equitable Campus Resources and Education (SECuRE) Act

Why do we need SECuRE?

People with disabilities experience sexual violence on campus at higher rates than those without disabilities. The 2017 American Association of University Women study of 27 institutes of higher education indicated that 31.6% of female undergraduates with disabilities experienced sexual violence, compared to 18.4% of female undergraduates without disabilities. In 2018, the National Council on Disability (NCD) investigated the state of campus sexual assault programs and policies and found that people with disabilities faced access barriers related to reporting an assault, participating in campus judiciary hearings and even accessing counseling supports following an assault. Campus assault prevention and education programs often are not inclusive of people with disabilities. Staff at institutes of higher education responsible for campus safety, disciplinary proceedings and support services may not be trained to serve and support students, staff or visitors with disabilities. The NCD report also found that campus safety information may not be provided in accessible formats or in a timely manner, placing people with disabilities at greater risk.

What would SECuRE do?

The Clery Act is a federal statute requiring institutes of higher education that receive federal financial aid funding to maintain and disclose campus crime statistics and security information. The SECuRE Act makes targeted improvements to the Clery Act to ensure the needs of people with disabilities are included in campus planning and response to incidents of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. It also requires that materials provided to the campus community are available in accessible formats for people with disabilities. Specifically, campus prevention and awareness programs will need to address abusive behavior and attacks targeting people with disabilities, and campus policies for emergency response and evacuation must take into account the needs of people with disabilities. Campus security personnel, disciplinary proceedings staff and others responsible for providing required information under the Clery Act will be required to be trained to work with people with disabilities. Institutional disciplinary proceedings will be required to be accessible to people with disabilities so that a person with a disability who is the accuser or the accused can be accompanied to any meeting or proceeding by an interpreter or other individual providing communication assistance services, in addition to his or her advisor of choice. The written notice of the outcome of a disciplinary proceeding also will be required to be provided in an accessible format.

Cosponsors: Senators Hassan, Murphy, Klobuchar, Sanders, Smith, Warren, Duckworth, Shaheen, Blumenthal, Wyden, and Hirono

The Safe Equitable Campus Resources and Education Act will ensure that the rights of people with disabilities will be accounted for under the Clery Act.

Supporting Organizations

American Association of People with Disabilities
American Psychological Association
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
The Arc of the United States
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Autism Society of America
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Brain Injury Association of America
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation
Clery Center
College911.net
College Safety Coalition
End Rape on Campus
Family Voices
Little Lobbyists
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Council on Disability
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
Rail Against the Danger
Safety Advisors for Educational Campuses, LLC (SAFE Campuses, LLC)

The National Council on Disability (NCD), a federal advisory body, has reviewed the policy objectives of the SECuRE Act and concluded that it is in line with NCD's past research findings and recommendations to federal policymakers.

A copy of the NCD report is available: [here](#).