Holistic Survivor Support on Campus

The Sexual Violence on Higher Education Campuses bill (S.764, H.1209) will make Massachusetts colleges and universities safer and provide student survivors with clear options and more comprehensive support to help them heal and continue their education.

What it does

- Requires colleges and universities to train students, faculty, and staff on consent and on ways to intervene when they witness inappropriate behavior or misconduct.
- Mandates that institutions clearly communicate annually the policies, procedures, and resources related to sexual assault and harassment to students on an annual basis.
- Stipulates that schools have a confidential resource advisor to help students know their rights and navigate their options.
- Ensures that college and university staff who are obligated to report are trained in how trauma affects a survivor and how to respond in a way that minimizes additional trauma.
- Requires colleges and universities to develop a formal relationship with a local crisis center so that students can be easily connected to outside support and resources.

Why it matters

- Training on consent and bystander intervention is key to preventing sexual assault and harassment and creating safer campus communities.
- Survivors need clear policies and procedures, effectively trained staff, and easily accessible options for support in order to heal and continue their education.
- Multiple options and clarity on who is a confidential resource empowers survivors and gives them choice in accessing the support they deserve.

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