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# The Hold Accountable and Lend Transparency on Campus Sexual Violence Act (HALT Act)

## The facts

Introduced in the House of Representatives in June 2015, the HALT Act addresses the pervasive problem of campus sexual assault and takes several long overdue steps to fix it.

The HALT Act encourages colleges and universities to be diligent in the eradication of campus sexual assault:

- ★ The HALT Act promises to improve the accountability of colleges and universities by allowing student victims to file a private right of action against the school for failure to meet campus safety requirements.
- ★ This legislation also increases transparency by requiring schools to anonymously survey their students every other year about campus safety. This way, universities can understand how to effectively meet student's needs.
- ★ All campus survey results must be publicly published under the HALT Act, also bolstering accountability.
- ★ The HALT Act would also increase funding so that sexual assault investigators would have more resources to adequately address complaints.

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## Why it matters

Today, a woman who attends a university is more likely to be sexually assaulted than a woman who does not. Students should feel safe on their college campuses, and the current sexual assault policies and prevention measures are not working. The HALT Act envisions college campuses as they should be—a proactive and positive force in the elimination of campus sexual assault.

Although there are federal laws currently in place to guide colleges in the investigation and eradication of sexual assault on campus, it still occurs at an alarming rate. The bipartisan HALT Act revises the federal oversight process for campus policies, giving universities increased incentives to acknowledge the depth of the problem on their campus and to take steps to finally fix it.



*URGE is a national nonprofit organization that mobilizes the diverse, upcoming generation of leaders to promote and protect reproductive rights, sexual health & gender justice. Visit us at: [www.URGE.org](http://www.URGE.org)*

## What you can do

It is important for your representatives and senators to hear from you on this issue. Other bills in Congress that relate to campus sexual assault are not on the right track. For example, the "Safe Campus Act" was also recently introduced in Congress but is deceptively named, threatening to do more harm than good for sexual assault prevention.

It is important for you to emphasize to your Representative that bills like the HALT Act deserve congressional support and could make campuses across the country the safe environment they should be. Follow this link (*P2A campaign link*) to urge your Representative to cosponsor this bill.

Be aware of your colleges current policies. Contact your university to find out more about what their process currently is for investigating sexual assault to better understand how this bill would positively impact your school.

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## Resources

If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted, call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800.656.HOPE (4673). A trained staff member from a sexual assault service provider in your area will discuss your options with you.

To take action on behalf of the HALT act, text "HALT" to 52886 and ask your Representatives in Congress to support the bill.



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