



**Joan Huffman**  
Senator ★ District 17

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Contact: Austin Arceneaux ~ 512-463-0117

Austin.Arceneaux@senate.texas.gov

**Senator Huffman Files The Campus Sexual Assault And Violence Elimination Act**

Austin - Today, Senator Joan Huffman (R - Houston) filed Senate Bill 576, the Campus Sexual Assault & Violence Elimination Act or "C-SAVE." By compelling both public and private Texas colleges and universities to account for incidents of rape and sexual violence on their campuses, Texans can finally understand the pervasive nature of these horrible crimes. It is time to put a real and tangible number to the occurrence of these criminal acts on Texas campuses.

"It is time that the State of Texas takes the appropriate steps to protect our students from all forms of sexual assault on college campuses," said Huffman. "By confronting the prevalence of these crimes through the reporting required in C-SAVE, Texas colleges can take their first steps towards eliminating sexual assault and violence."

The Campus Sexual Assault & Violence Elimination Act will accomplish the following:

- Ensure that an institution of higher education's chief executive officer is fully informed of each allegation or complaint, assuring that each allegation or complaint will be properly handled by the appropriate officials while still maintaining due process and victim privacy.
- Ensure the privacy of alleged victims who report to individuals with whom they have a confidential relationship (like a doctor or psychologist), by only requiring the incident itself be reported, not the identity of the alleged victim.
- Require that every employee and the highest ranking member of a student organization recognized or registered with an institution of higher education report incidents of sexual violence to the institution's chief executive officer, not later than 48 hours after becoming aware of the incident.
- Empower victims and witnesses to report these crimes, because they know that each allegation will be properly handled with the utmost importance and due diligence by each higher education institution in the State.

"With studies showing 1 in 5 female college students experiencing some kind of assault during their time at college, it is imperative that victims and witnesses have a safe and reliable reporting structure," said Huffman. "We cannot afford for victims to withhold information because they feel that they might be ridiculed or ostracized for reporting an allegation of a criminal act. The days when an outcry went unheard, unreported, or covered up are over in the State of Texas."

*(Senator Joan Huffman represents District 17, which includes portions of Brazoria, Fort Bend and Harris counties. Huffman currently serves as Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on State Affairs, Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice, and as a member of the Senate Committee on Finance. Huffman and her family reside in Houston.)*

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