

To the Virginia House of Delegates Higher Education Subcommittee,

My name is Geneva Wolfe, I am a junior at The George Washington University, and I am writing to express my strongest support for House Bill 457. As a current college student, I cannot begin to express how vital this piece of legislation is for the future of our campuses. House Bill 457 would lead Virginia on a track that prioritizes the physical, mental, and emotional safety of all students. It would be part of the growing movement to change societal norms that allow for sexual violence to affect our loved one's lives.

Delegates, my heart breaks for the countless friends and peers who have confided in me about their experience being raped, sexually assaulted, or harassed. Today you have a chance to help these individuals by supporting survivors and their needs after they report incidents of sexual violence. Every Virginian student deserves to have their safety placed first, and not be silenced by fear of disciplinary retaliation from their schools.

Virginia laws must work for students across the board. ALL students deserve an equal right to immunity from disciplinary action. Lawmakers, we must act now. I am deeply grateful to Delegate Helmer for saying enough is enough, we need to address this dangerous problem. Thank you for your time and energy on this bill that would improve the lives of so many Virginians. Delegates of the Higher Education Subcommittee, please vote House Bill 457 out of committee and into action for the students of Virginia. We are counting on you.

My gratitude,  
Geneva Wolfe