



## **New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault**

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### **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **The New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault Joins Public Advocate to Improve the Responses to Victims of Sexual Assault at City's Universities and Colleges**

[New York] On Monday October 27, 2014, the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault will join Public Advocate, Leticia James to hold a press conference in support of a bill introduced to improve services and information available to victims of sexual assault at city's universities.

The NYC Campus Safety Act would mandate the city to provide information about support services to victims of sexual assault—including an app identifying where sexual assaults have occurred—establish response and prevention education programs in colleges, and create a task force to improve how city agencies respond to college sexual assaults.

“Now is the right time to expand resources and develop better standards to ensure that students have proper tools and education to address college sexual assaults,” Public Advocate indicated in a statement this week. “In the last few months, my office has met with students, advocates, and policy-makers to identify a plan to ensure that students in New York City have all the protections needed to address this under-reported crime.”

Mary Haviland, Executive Director states “The New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault supports Public Advocate Letitia James’s efforts improve the response to victims of sexual assault at the city’s universities and colleges. The Alliance would like to recognize the Public Advocate’s persistent efforts to actively engage community voices including students, service providers, and advocates in this effort. We look forward to collaborating with Public Advocate and policy-makers to ensure the safety of students, allow for the pursuit of justice and further prevent sexual violence on college campuses in New York City.”

The tally of federal investigation of colleges on sexual violence has grown 50 percent in the past six months according to the Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights. Currently 89 cases are pending at 85 schools. Currently there are 8 universities and colleges in New York – both private and public – under the federal investigation.

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*The mission of the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault is to prevent sexual violence and reduce the harm it causes through education, research and advocacy.*