

Accuracy in Campus Crime Reporting Act Resolution-1998

by Dr. Don Gehring and John Wesley Lowery

This resolution was passed unanimously by the membership of the Association for Student Judicial Affairs present on Monday, February 9, 1998 at the Association's annual business meeting during the 10th Annual Conference in Sand Key, Florida.

Whereas, the Association for Student Judicial Affairs was founded upon the principle that "The development and enforcement of standards of conduct for students is an educational endeavor which fosters students' personal and social development"; and

Whereas, the Association for Student Judicial Affairs is deeply concerned about crime on campus; and

Whereas, Congress, also concerned about crime on campus, is considering the Accuracy in Campus Crime Reporting Act (H.R. 715); and

Whereas, the Accuracy in Campus Crime Reporting Act (H.R. 715) draws inappropriate parallels between campus judicial systems and the criminal justice system; and

Whereas, the Association for Student Judicial Affairs believes the changes to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and the open hearings and records provisions of the current version of the Accuracy in Campus Crime Reporting Act would substantially limit institutions' ability to develop effective educational responses to student conduct; and

Whereas, the open hearings provision of the legislation would discourage accused students from participating in the student judicial process with openness and candor which is imperative to achieve an educational outcome; and

Whereas, the Association for Student Judicial Affairs believes these provisions would have the unintended effect of discouraging victims and witnesses from participating in the campus judicial system in cases involving interpersonal violence, such as sexual assault and others; and

Whereas, the unwillingness of victims and witnesses to participate in the campus judicial process would actually result in college and university communities being less informed about student conduct; and

Whereas, the Association for Student Judicial Affairs further believes the open records provisions of the legislation would create significant financial burden for colleges and universities, especially small colleges; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Association for Student Judicial Affairs, while supporting the spirit of the legislation, strongly opposes the changes to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and open hearings and records provisions of the current version of the Accuracy in Campus Crime Reporting Act; further be it

Resolved, that the Association for Student Judicial Affairs encourages all members to continue the dialogue by contacting their elected representatives in Congress to express their views of the Accuracy in Campus Crime Reporting Act and encourage their institutions to do the same.