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August 26, 2014

Mr. Robert W. Johnson
Executive Director
California Association of Private Postsecondary Schools
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 705
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Director Johnson:

As our students return to campus, they are counting on their universities to not only educate them, but also to protect them. Yet, as you know too well, campus sexual assault has reached epidemic levels in our country, and I am writing to work with your member colleges and universities to create an independent victim's advocate on their campuses.

I recently introduced the SOS Campus Act with Congresswoman Susan Davis. Our bill is very straightforward: it would make sure an independent advocate is in place on every campus to help sexual assault survivors report an assault, obtain emergency medical care and examinations, and receive counseling, legal assistance and information about their rights. A fact sheet on the bill is attached.

This legislation has already received a tremendous amount of support, including from the University of California, the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, the National Women's Law Center, the Victim Rights Law Center, Savannah Badalich, Founder of UCLA's 7000 in Solidarity: A Campaign Against Sexual Assault, Break the Cycle, Jewish Women International, American Association of University Women, Legal Momentum, the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) and the Violence Prevention Coalition of Orange County.

I am working hard to pass the SOS Campus Act in Congress, but our students cannot afford to wait another minute for that to happen. That is why I am asking you today to voluntarily implement its provisions by working with your member schools to create an independent victim's advocate on every campus.

Please let me know in a return letter if my staff can work with you to make this happen and I will ensure the public knows of your leadership on combatting sexual assault. I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

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