

## News Release

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*Contact:* Kristal Griffith

*Email:* [kgriffith@naspa.org](mailto:kgriffith@naspa.org)

*Phone:* (202) 265-7500 ext. 1177

### **NASPA and ECS release new report on sexual assault** *Publication looks at recent state legislation on campus sexual violence*

WASHINGTON, D.C. —NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education and Education Commission of the States (ECS) release a new report “State Legislative Developments on Campus Sexual Violence: Issues in the Context of Safety.” The publication looks at recent state legislation on campus sexual violence. By offering in-depth analyses of state legislation and framing key issues and considerations for leaders in higher education and policy across the states, NASPA and ECS look to support constructive dialogue toward effective action on campus safety.

“Given the attention to sexual violence and related policy issues from postsecondary institutions and the federal government, it is not surprising that campus sexual violence has become a top-tier policy issue across the states as well,” say report authors Brian Sponsler, director for the postsecondary and workforce development institute at the ECS, Andrew Morse, director for policy research and advocacy at NASPA, and Mary Fulton, senior project manager and policy analyst in the postsecondary and workforce development institute at the ECS. “During the 2015 legislative sessions, at least 28 states introduced or enacted legislation concerning campus sexual violence.”

As state lawmakers have taken action on a variety of policy proposals intended to protect students and support sexual assault survivors, several common policy themes have emerged. The report contains an ECS analysis of state legislative actions in the broad area of campus sexual violence identified four primary policy themes embedded in 22 state actions.

In addition, the organizations offer a retrospective analysis of state legislative activity during the 2013–2015 legislative sessions that focused on campus sexual violence and provide detailed descriptions of four major policy themes identified through a content analysis of introduced and enacted legislation and frame considerations for state decision makers and campus leaders.

This brief is intended to help inform constructive policy dialogue as the higher education and stakeholder communities continue to deliberate the merits of proposed policy actions to support and affirm educational environments that are safe, inclusive, and equitable for all students on campus.

*NASPA is the leading association for the advancement, health, and sustainability of the student affairs profession. Our work provides high-quality professional development, advocacy, and research for 15,000 members in all 50 states, 25 countries, and 8 U.S. territories.*

*Education Commission of the States is the trusted source for comprehensive knowledge and unbiased resources on education policy issues ranging from early learning through postsecondary education.*