



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT INFORMATION

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**A STATEMENT ON RECENT SEXUAL ASSAULTS AND RESOURCES TO THE STUDENT BODY**

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Patriots,

Within the first week of classes, our community at George Mason University has received two timely warning reports concerning sexual assault on our Fairfax campus. Student Government condemns these acts of violence. We find ourselves deeply saddened by their frequency and their impact on our student body. With recent prominent and national examples, we are reminded just how prevalent and deeply rooted sexual assault is on college campuses. We are reminded there is still a lot to do and a lot to change, but none of it can happen if we do not actively work to change things for the better and to call out injustice when we see it.

Student Government is committed to both sexual assault prevention as well as education, awareness, and resources for victims. We recognize sexual assault happens to people of all genders, identities, cultures, backgrounds and circumstances. Similarly, we recognize perpetrators of sexual assault can also be people of all genders, identities, cultures, backgrounds and circumstances.

We would like to highlight different offices at our university and the services they offer: the **Student Support and Advocacy Center** (SSAC; formerly the Office of Wellness, Alcohol, and Violence Education and Services and the Office of Student Support) offers bystander intervention, a 24-hour Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence Crisis Line (703-380-1434), as well as confidential HIV testing and free contraceptive distribution. **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)** can be contacted during business hours at (703) 993-2380. **Student Health Services** offers STI/STD screening. **Mason Police** – in addition to continuing to investigate the two reported cases – offers sexual assault reporting, an after-hours emergency CAPS representative, as well as a 24-hour escort service for anyone who feels unsafe when walking across campus (all of which can be accessed via their non-emergency number: 703-993-2817).

From Student Government, you can contact any of us via our contact information. Student Government's office can be found in the Student Involvement Office in the HUB, and is open for students to walk in and either talk to us or leave us a message during the office's normal business hours. This year, we are on our third year of the Patriots In Action campaign against sexual assault and gender violence, a collaborative initiative to combat sexual assault on our campuses, which will be announcing future events later this semester. Student Government is constantly trying to improve its involvement on this issue: if you have any questions, thoughts, or comments, please contact us.

Through our collaboration with the Mason ID Office last semester, the number for the National Sexual Assault Hotline (1-800-656-4673) is printed on the back of this year's Mason ID can also be reached. It's on us to stop sexual assault on our campuses and to help make the student body feel safer and more connected.

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