



HR0209

LRB101 11466 ALS 57446 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice  
3 Statistics found that, on average, 20.5 percent of college  
4 women have experienced sexual assault since entering college;  
5 and

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WHEREAS, Moreover, the National Sexual Violence Resource  
7 Center estimates that more than 60 percent of sexual assaults  
8 are never even reported to police; and

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WHEREAS, To address these issues, the U.S. Department of  
10 Education's Office for Civil Rights under the Obama  
11 administration issued guidelines that instructed universities  
12 that they were obligated to combat sexual assault and  
13 harassment under Title IX, a 1972 law prohibiting sex  
14 discrimination in federally-funded educational programs; and

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WHEREAS, The guidelines also established a requirement  
16 that college disciplinary proceedings rely on a preponderance  
17 of evidence when adjudicating cases of sexual assault; and

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WHEREAS, In 2017, the Trump administration rescinded these  
19 guidelines and announced its intention to engage the federal  
20 rulemaking process to establish new rules governing the  
21 schools' responsibilities concerning sexual harassment and

1 assault complaints; and

2 WHEREAS, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos released a  
3 proposed rule in November 2018 that would narrow the scope of  
4 allegations schools will be responsible for investigating and  
5 would enable schools to choose a higher legal standard for  
6 considering evidence; and

7 WHEREAS, The Education Department received more than  
8 100,000 public comments on the proposed rulemaking, which the  
9 Department is now reviewing in preparation for issuing a final  
10 rule; and

11 WHEREAS, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul joined a  
12 coalition of 19 attorneys general in submitting a comment  
13 letter urging federal officials to withdraw the proposed rule,  
14 as it undermines the anti-discrimination protections of Title  
15 IX and weakens protections against sexual harassment and  
16 violence for students; and

17 WHEREAS, After passing the Preventing Sexual Violence in  
18 Higher Education Act in 2015, Illinois now has one of the  
19 strongest state laws to protect student survivors of sexual  
20 assault on campus; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
2 we urge Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and the Department of  
3 Education to withdraw the proposed rule and instead pursue  
4 policies that reflect the concerns raised by law enforcement,  
5 create a safe environment for victims to report instances,  
6 aggressively address the problem of campus sexual assault and  
7 harassment, and broadly address all instances of sexual  
8 harassment affecting college students; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 delivered to Secretary DeVos.