



March 10, 2016

Vice President Joseph Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington DC, 20500

Dear Vice President Biden,

I am writing because I wanted to thank you for taking such a visible position on the issue of campus safety sexual assault (both on and off campus), and consent. When I found out that you would be making a statement at the Academy Awards, I knew that the public was going to take a giant step forward in their awareness regarding this issue.

In 2013, some friends and I were watching the first coverage of an alleged sexual assault incident that occurred on a nearby campus in North Florida. It wasn't the first time reports like this had surfaced, but it was the first time people were discussing it in a way that took the report seriously, and did not simply disregard the assault as a minor incident, and most likely false. Although that is exactly what happened later, the initial point was made and my friends and I began to discuss the subject of campus assault, and the difficulty navigating a student's first year(s) on campus.

Over the next few months, following the first visible coverage of a campus assault, we discussed the subject of student safety on campus, and how we all had previous experience with situations where we were not quite sure we handled sexual encounters, both good and bad, appropriately. As someone who went to college more than 30 years ago, I assumed that my experiences were much different than women come across today. However, after many conversations, and watching the news explore the topic of campus safety, I realized that even after 30 years, students were still having trouble with the subject of consent.

My friends, Cody Collins and John Chauncey (now my business partners), had a slightly different experience with this issue. First, because they are male, and also because one of them was a student athlete, an area where we seem to come across the most publicly reported incidents. My other partner went right to work after high school, and didn't experience college at all. However, all three of us agreed from the outset that campus sexual assault must be addressed and taken seriously.

We decided that we were going to take up the issue of consent and safety on college campuses, and we've created a nonprofit group that does exactly that.

The Affirmative Consent Project ([www.affirmativeconsent.com](http://www.affirmativeconsent.com)) is a nonprofit community that strives to provide as much assistance as possible to campus leaders, administrators, parents and students. We have more than 2000 articles about the Affirmative Consent/Yes Means Yes movement. We also provide state legislative tracking, and more than 500 campus policy documents organized by consent policy and region, so that college leaders can easily do research and compare their ideas for consent policy with other schools doing the same thing.



Our news and resource information is updated on a daily basis, as the subject is discussed more and more frequently both in the news and on thousands of campuses across the country.

It is our goal to provide as much current information as possible, and to organize it to make it easy to find the tools you need to educate students, administrators and safety officials about the issue of sexual assault and safety on and off campus. We have thousands of visitors and are working with schools around the country to help with orientation, training, and to provide help however we can.

We've also been sent to speak at various colleges during the "It's On Us" Days of Action. As a matter of fact, the same day you were speaking at Spellman College in Georgia, we were speaking at The University of Pikeville in Kentucky.

Following your appearance at the Oscars, our website visits increased dramatically, and I also received emails and texts from people I had been working to engage. They now understood the importance of the subject.

In closing, I wanted to thank you for your work on this issue. Most of the outreach and awareness activity we've been doing on our end has been modeled on the original lessons I learned while being a part of 'Obama for America' and 'Organizing for America' over the last 8 years.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to this issue, and to our country.

Sincerely,

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