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Written Testimony of
The Young Women's Leadership Program
Before the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee
February 10, 2011

Re: SB 847, AAC the Elimination of Sexual Violence on College Campuses

Senators Bye and Boucher, Representatives Willis and LeGeyt and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of S.B. 847, AAC the Elimination of Sexual Violence on College Campuses. The Young Women's Leadership Program (YWLP) is a project of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) and focuses on empowering young women (ages 18-35) to lead their best lives possible.

S.B 847 will update the federal sexual assault policy requirements set forth in the Jeanne Clery Act and details several important components of awareness including requiring campuses to include information about sexual assault and intimate partner violence resources in their Uniform Crime Reports. The bill also specifies several additional steps aimed at detailing the policies and procedures taken by Universities after an act of violence has been committed. One piece of this bill that is particularly helpful to students that are victims of assault is the requirement that the disciplinary procedures be conducted by an individual who has been trained in sexual assault and intimate partner violence.

This bill is important to the age group of the YWLP because sexual violence on college campuses mainly affects female students. Sadly, at least 1 in 4 college women will be the victim of a sexual assault during her academic career.[1] We strongly support measures aimed at protecting victims of sexual assault and support the overall goal of the elimination of sexual violence on college campuses.

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[1] Hirsch, Kathleen (1990)"Fraternities of Fear: Gang Rape, Male Bonding, and the Silencing of Women." Ms., 1(2) 52-56.