

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 7, 2022

The Honorable Patricia Murray
Chairwoman, Committee on Health, Education,
Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member, Committee on Health,
Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Burr:

Hazing is a dangerous—and at times deadly—problem on college campuses. Not only can it be physically and emotionally damaging to students in search of a sense of belonging at school, it also undermines the mission of higher education. We urge the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to consider policies that address hazing at colleges and universities across the United States.

Hazing continues to be a widespread problem on college campuses, as recently documented in the November 28, 2021 CBS *60 Minutes* broadcast that highlighted a deadly incident at Washington State University. Studies have shown that hazing can intersect with concerning behaviors like high-risk substance use, sexual harassment and assault, and other forms of violence.¹ In 2021 alone, alleged hazing incidents led to five tragic, avoidable deaths, and in November a student at Georgia College and State University was hospitalized after an alleged hazing incident.² These statistics do not account for the countless incidents that go unreported.

Education and accountability are required to end hazing. That is why we introduced bipartisan legislation—the *Report and Educate About Campus Hazing (REACH) Act*—that requires hazing incidents to be reported as part of a college’s annual crime report. It also establishes a definition of hazing to clarify what constitutes a reportable offense. Our legislation also requires each institution to implement a campus-wide, research-based program to educate students about the dangers of hazing. In addition, we support the *END ALL Hazing Act*, which would provide better information about the history of hazing in colleges and student organizations, so parents and students can make informed choices for their futures. These policies have received strong support from mental health and victim advocates, educators, and fraternity and sorority advisors.

We strongly urge the Committee to consider the *REACH Act* and *END ALL Hazing Act* for inclusion in any future mental and behavioral health package or *Higher Education Act* reauthorization. Hazing behaviors are often overlooked and unreported, but their impact on student wellbeing and interpersonal violence is too devastating to ignore.

¹ StopHazing Research Lab. (December 2020). Intersections of Hazing. StopHazing Consulting. <https://www.stophazing.org/issue/intersections>

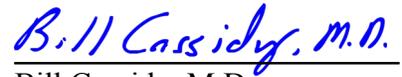
² Associated Press (December 2, 2021). Eight arrested in Georgia college fraternity hazing incident. U.S. News. www.usnews.com/news/best-states/georgia/articles/2021-12-02/eight-arrested-in-georgia-college-fraternity-hazing-incident.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that we see an end to harmful hazing on our college campuses. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



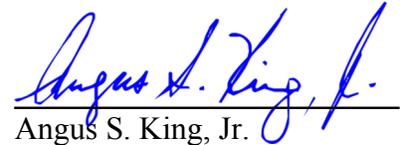
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