



POLICY AGENDA

Since its founding, Clery Center has engaged with policymakers in recognition of the significant impact that could result from legislation: driving systemic change on college campuses.

Our long history and direct experience with policy-making—from the passage of the Clery Act in 1990; our work on its many amendments, including the Higher Education Opportunity Act in 2008, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act in 2013, and most recently the passage of the Stop Campus Hazing Act in 2024—support our deep understanding of the Clery Act and the impact of intersecting laws on its implementation.

Building on this history and experience, we share this public policy agenda to inform and guide institutions of higher education nationwide, policymakers, students, and parents about our advocacy priorities. We partner with colleges and universities to create safer campuses, in part, by advocating for equitable campus safety legislation.

EDUCATE LAWMAKERS, STUDENTS, AND FAMILIES ON THE VALUE AND IMPACT OF THE CLERY ACT

The Clery Act influences campus safety by requiring transparency about campus crime as well as policies informing how institutions prevent and respond to it. Founded by Connie and Howard Clery after their daughter, Jeanne's, death, Clery Center's frequent work with institutions of higher education strengthens our ability to communicate the importance of the Clery Act. Clery Center's expertise informs how legislators approach campus safety policy and how community members benefit from these requirements.

Clery Center will:

- Provide members of Congress with information on the purpose, evolution, and successes of the Clery Act.
- Publicly celebrate the anniversary of the Clery Act.
- Demonstrate to legislators, students, and families how the Clery Act is a tool to develop and maintain safer campuses for all community members.

ADVOCATE TO SUSTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE CLERY ACT THROUGH EFFECTIVE OVERSIGHT, CLEAR GUIDANCE, AND SHARED BEST PRACTICES

In 2020, the Department of Education (ED) rescinded the *Handbook for Campus Safety and Security Reporting*, longstanding subregulatory guidance on the Clery Act. It previously served as an accessible, comprehensive resource for thousands of administrators to ensure their institution's compliance with a law tied to federal funding. The 2024 Clery Act State of the Field Survey results indicated that there are continued areas of confusion and inconsistencies across colleges and universities in applying Clery Act requirements. By leveraging our subject matter expertise and relationships with colleges, universities, and partner organizations across the country, we will advocate for additional direction from federal agencies, and will create additional resources to help institutions address persistent campus safety questions and concerns.



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Clery Center will:

- In collaboration with ally organizations, strategically monitor and respond to proposed federal legislation and strategies that directly impact Clery Act implementation, enforcement, or guidance.
- Educate about the SCHA updates to the Clery Act statute as well as intersections between Title IX and Clery Act regulations, clarifying points of confusion and advocating for equitable, streamlined processes for systematically addressing prevention of and response to hazing as well as dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking at institutions of higher education.
- Develop a community of practice and tools to address lack of clarity or guidance from the Department of Education.
- Cultivate relationships with state and federal agencies and support communities of practice to navigate gaps in guidance or direction regarding Clery Act compliance.

BUILD EXPERTISE IN UNDERSTANDING STATE LAWS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO EDUCATE AND SUPPORT INSTITUTIONS IN SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATING THEIR CAMPUS SAFETY OBJECTIVES

Colleges and universities navigate a complex legislative landscape, balancing federal and state laws that inform and guide their campus safety efforts. As these state laws inform both future federal policy as well as current campus practices, Clery Center will enhance organizational knowledge regarding state laws most impacting institutions of higher education, particularly Clery Center Members and Office on Violence Against Women Campus Program grantees, to better connect institutions to resources and inform federal policy conversations regarding state-level promising policy efforts and practices.

Clery Center will:

- Work with Clery Center Members and OVW grantees to identify intersecting state laws creating questions or concerns.
- Review identified laws and available state-level resources (SMEs, tools, etc) to share with Members.