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The Honorable George Helmy
United States Senate
210 Hudson Street
Harborside 3, Suite# 1000
Jersey City, NJ 07311

Dear Senator Helmy,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Stop Campus Hazing Act (S.2901, H.R.5646), which aims to enhance the reporting and prevention of hazing within higher education institutions. This bipartisan bill, which recently passed in the U.S. House of Representatives, has garnered widespread backing from both higher education stakeholders and campus safety experts.

At Rider University, we take the issue of hazing with the utmost seriousness. Since the tragic loss of Gary DeVercelly, Jr. in 2007 due to a hazing incident on our campus, we have worked closely with his parents, Julie and Gary DeVercelly, who serve on the board of the Clery Center. Their dedication, combined with our university's ongoing efforts, has been instrumental in driving hazing prevention initiatives, promoting student well-being, and fostering responsible decision-making among our athletic teams, Greek chapter, and student-run clubs and organizations.

While we are proud of the progress we have made alongside the DeVercelly family, we recognize that more must be done to prevent future tragedies. The Stop Campus Hazing Act would amend the Clery Act by requiring the inclusion of hazing incidents in the Annual Security Report, increasing transparency around hazing policies and violations, and mandating the implementation of evidence-based, campus-wide hazing prevention programs. These measures align with the work we have undertaken with the DeVercellys at Rider, and we have seen their positive impact in reducing hazing on our campus.

I urge you to support this crucial piece of legislation. It will play a pivotal role in advancing hazing prevention efforts nationwide and protecting the well-being of our students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gregory G. Dell'Omo, Ph.D.
President