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January 30, 2003

The Honorable Judd Gregg, Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, & Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner, Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Education
and the Workforce
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Buck McKeon, Chairman
Subcommittee on 21st
Century Competitiveness
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Edward Kennedy, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
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644 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable George Miller, Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Education
and the Workforce
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dale Kildee, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on 21st
Century Competitiveness
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

As Congress this year considers reauthorization of the Higher Education Act it is important that the campus crime reporting provisions of the Jeanne Clery Act, a part of the HEA, not be weakened or eliminated. In memory of our beloved daughter who was raped and murdered on campus Congress passed this law to ensure that no other student would ever be kept in the dark about the crime dangers faced on their campus.

Yet this most important consumer information disclosure found in the HEA has come under continued attack from image conscious colleges. The National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, for example, has said that campus crime reports are of "little public use" and said they should possibly be eliminated. This must not be allowed to happen!

While possible simplification of some reporting provisions could be explored, the American people will not stand for colleges turning back the clock to when they could hide crimes as serious as rape and even murder by simply sweeping them under the rug. On behalf of the millions of college students across the country and their parents we call on you to stay the course, and continue to require colleges participating in student aid programs to report basic campus crime information. It may even save the life of someone you know or love.

Sincerely,

Connie & Howard Clery, Co-Founders
c.c.: U.S. Senator Arlen Specter
U.S. Rep. Mark Foley