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Statement Regarding Recent Comments and Apology Made by Kristen Stewart:

We, at Security On Campus, Inc., are reassured that Kristen Stewart issued an apology for the remarks she recently made in British Elle Magazine. Ms. Stewart has hosted SOC's public service announcement against sexual assault and *Speak Out and Stand Up*, a video used in our sexual assault awareness peer education programs. This program reaches thousands of students across the country annually to raise awareness of sexual assault and to motivate students to create change in the culture of violence in which we live. Using the word "rape" lightly and out-of-context is unacceptable and can have lasting consequences among the students who look to Kristen Stewart as a leader. Taking a leadership role in the movement to end sexual violence comes with the responsibility of taking care to use the most appropriate and victim-supportive language at all times.

Sexual assault affects 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men over a lifetime. The impact of rape and sexual assault is far-reaching, and its devastating effects can be lasting for survivors and their loved ones. Using the word "rape" casually only works to minimize the devastating effects of this heinous crime. When a survivor hears or reads rape used in this way, she/he may be unnecessarily forced to think about the trauma suffered during such an incident. When non-survivors hear this, they may think that it is ok to throw around such a powerful word, or even make a joke of it, taking away from the seriousness and the grave effects of this crime affecting so many people. We live in a society that all too often supports rape, even if indirectly through jokes or casual use of the word. Rape is always serious.

Again, we thank Kristen Stewart for her apology and for her work to help spread awareness of sexual violence. Her past commitment to this cause has helped us to further the mission and vision of a world without sexual violence. It is our hope that Ms. Stewart continues to show her commitment to this cause and to the words of her apology. We understand that she wishes to continue to be a leader against this crime and trauma, and support any effort she puts forth to correct this issue. It is also our hope that in speaking about this, we bring to light the trauma that rape survivors go through, and begin to work together to make our world, including our media, a safer, more supportive environment for all survivors.