



Testimony in SUPPORT of HF3872: Senate version UEH3872-1

We urge you to support HF3872 senate approved version UEH3872-1. This higher education omnibus bill includes necessary appropriations and policy and appropriately excludes the *illogical* attempt to amend the Minnesota Statutes 2020 to require affirmative consent.

Nobody in the history of the world has sexual relations as proposed in the House version of this bill, and certainly not college students. If the House version of the bill prevails, it will turn both Minnesota's male and female college students into sex offenders.

An "affirmative consent" standard is an impossible standard with no definable boundaries; it is a nonsense trap that renders every person guilty under a claim of sexual assault. Nobody has intimate relations that meet the affirmative consent standard. No couple negotiates a "permission regarding willingness to engage" before *each touch or escalation in a sexual encounter*. I challenge the sponsors of the affirmative consent version of the bill and each Minnesota lawmaker to *think of their personal sexual activity and whether each and every touch was preceded by "affirmative consent."* Short of a written contract and full video, no one will be able to defend against a charge that somewhere, something in the encounter did not fully satisfy "affirmative consent." The result would be that all Minnesota's college students will be uninformed about legal "affirmative consent" and will risk being labeled sex offenders.

Affirmative consent is not germane to this higher education appropriations and policy bill. We ask that you support the senate version UEH3872-1.

Susan Horning

Stop Abuse For Everyone

shorning@stopabuseforeveryone.org

<https://www.stopabuseforeveryone.org/>

Stop Abuse For Everyone (SAFE) is a non-profit human rights agency recognizing the importance of ensuring that all populations, including the underserved, are not impacted by discriminatory legislation, whether disparate or overt.