



Illinois Student Senate
1401 West Green Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801
(217)-265-0520

February 20, 2015

Ms. Charlotte Collins
Staff Writer
Daily Illini
512 E. Green Street
Champaign, IL. 61820

Dear Ms. Collins:

Every two minutes, someone is sexually assaulted in America. Sexual assault is a devastating crime that is committed with shocking frequency in our society. Currently in Champaign alone there are over 100 registered sex offenders. This number is alarmingly high for such a town of its size, but it does not begin to reflect the full extent of the problem. According to the American Medical Association, sexual assault remains the most dramatically under-reported crime. An estimated two-thirds of assaults are never reported—often because victims fear they will be blamed for the assault.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month—a time to focus on sexual violence prevention and awareness. Your article about the Illinois Student Senate’s “It’s On Us” campaign in January helped shed light on this problem. I am writing to tell you about upcoming events from the Illinois Student Senate (ISS) on this issue.

To address these startling statistics, ISS is organizing several campus events and activities for February and March, including:

- Illinois Student Senate “It’s On Us” Campaign” Social Media Engagement Campaign on February 28, 2015
- Campus-Wide Climate Survey administered by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs in April 2015
- *Her Campus Illinois* “Get Fit!” event benefitting Rape Advocacy Counseling Education Services (R.A.C.E.S) on April 28, 2015

I can give you additional information on sexual assault in our community. I can also schedule interviews with students from the Illinois Student Senate and a student who was a victim of sexual assault. Please let me know how I might be able to help. My direct phone number is (217)-265-0520, or you can email me anytime at ruda2@illinois.edu.

I will call you on Tuesday, February 24th, 2015, to see if I might be of any help on a possible story about campus activities regarding sexual assault. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy Ruda

Kathy Ruda
Illinois Student Senate
PR Coordinator