



# Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada

*87<sup>th</sup> Session, 2019-2020*

## A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AB60

Resolution Number: 53

Authored By: Senator Prempeh

Sponsored By: 2019-2020 Student Government Assembly

*Whereas*, AB60 is an act relating to criminal justice; revising the definition of domestic violence; increasing certain penalties relating to battery which constitutes domestic violence; imposing a fee on certain unlawful acts that constitute domestic violence; requiring such fees to be deposited into the Account for Programs Related to Domestic Violence; revising the definition of stalking; increasing certain penalties related to stalking; revising provisions relating to the crime of facilitating sex trafficking; revising provisions relating to the crime of assault; revising provisions relating to the crime of battery; revising the duties and quorum requirements of the Committee on Domestic Violence; revising provisions relating to the Office of Advocate for Missing or Exploited Children; providing penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto;<sup>1</sup>

*Whereas*, in the United States, 1 in 4 women (24.3%) and 1 in 7 men (13.8%) aged 18 and older in the United States have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime;<sup>2</sup>

*Whereas*, 38% of college students say they don't know how to get help for themselves if they were a victim of dating abuse;<sup>2</sup>

*Whereas*, the University of Nevada, Reno sent out a Sexual Conduct & Safety Survey in 2016;

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<sup>1</sup> "AB60." AB60 Overview. Accessed May 07, 2019. <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019/Bill/5985/Overview>.

<sup>2</sup> "Statistics." The National Domestic Violence Hotline. Accessed May 07, 2019. <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/statistics/>.

*Whereas*, in 2016, survey participation as a percent of degree-seeking students (31%, n= 6439) was essentially the same as in 2014 (32%, n = 6098). Roughly, 78% of respondents in 2016 were new participants; 22% were repeat respondents from 2014;<sup>3</sup>

*Whereas*, 8% of respondents in 2016 self-identified as victims of physical sexual assault or rape;

*Whereas*, 29% of victims identified the perpetrator as a current, casual, or ex-romantic partner;

*Whereas*, the University of Nevada, Reno's 2016 Sexual Conduct & Safety Survey found that victims were more likely to report drinking alcohol prior to the assault if the perpetrator was an acquaintance (81%) or stranger (79%); in contrast, victims were much less likely to report drinking alcohol if the perpetrator was a current, casual, or ex-romantic partner (49%);<sup>3</sup>

*Whereas*, 18 to 24-year olds have the highest rate of stalking victimization;<sup>4</sup>

*Whereas*, RAINN reports that only 25% of reported assaults eventually result in arrest;<sup>5</sup>

*Whereas*, a lack of more severe punishments for perpetrators can negatively affect the mental state of the victim;

*Whereas*, stricter punishments for acts of domestic violence could help victims feel safer after reporting those crimes;

*Be it resolved that*, the Associated Students of the University of Nevada encourages the adoption of AB60;

*Be it further resolved that*, this resolution be sent to Steve Yeager, the Chair for the Assembly Committee on Judiciary in Carson City, Nevada and the Director of Legislative Affairs.

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<sup>3</sup> "Be Heard & Be Part of the Solution." Sexual Conduct and Campus Safety Survey | University of Nevada, Reno. Accessed May 07, 2019. <https://www.unr.edu/student-services/resources-and-downloads/campus-safety/be-heard>.

<sup>4</sup> Facebook.com/CampusSafetyMagazine. "Stalking on Campus: A Silent Epidemic." Campus Safety Magazine. October 18, 2018. Accessed May 07, 2019. <https://www.campussafetymagazine.com/safety/stopping-stalkers/>.

<sup>5</sup> Writers, Staff. "Realities of Sexual Assault on Campus." BestColleges.com. May 15, 2018. Accessed May 07, 2019. <https://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/preventing-sexual-assault/>.

Adopted in Senate on May 15th, 2019

Attest:

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Frida Urena, Secretary of the Senate

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Savannah Hughes, Speaker of the Senate