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Contact: Shaina Brown
Cell: 925-209-6293
Email: shaina.brown@calcasa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

President Obama Releases New Website and Report on Campus Sexual Assault

SACRAMENTO, CA. – Today, the White House released recommendations for responding to and preventing sexual assault on college and university campuses via a new website – www.notalone.gov.

In January, President Obama established the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault, with the charge of developing a coordinated federal response to campus rape and sexual assault and to help colleges and universities better serve 1-in-6 women and 1-in-33 men who are victimized during college.

"Colleges and universities need to face the facts about sexual assault," Vice President Joe Biden said. "No more turning a blind eye or pretending it doesn't exist. We need to give victims the support they need — like a confidential place to go — and we need to bring the perpetrators to justice."

For nearly 15 years, The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) has been a national technical assistance provider to campuses across the country, assisting them in developing responses to sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. As this issue has played out on a national stage, CALCASA has highlighted campus sexual violence as a key priority for system-wide advocacy in the creation of student-centered policies and programs.

In order to best serve the needs of diverse student populations, CALCASA has developed three recommends for colleges and universities.

- It is essential that campuses develop policies and procedures that are survivor-centered, transparent, and that protect the confidentiality of students.
- CALCASA believes that campuses should collaborate with existing community based organizations, including local rape crisis centers, to assist survivors in accessing counseling, health, legal and other support services.
- CALCASA recommends colleges and universities implement comprehensive prevention programs that include women's empowerment, primary prevention, bystander intervention, and risk reduction. These prevention efforts should be ongoing and layered throughout the college experience.

Earlier this month, CALCASA convened a Student Summit in Sacramento, providing students with a platform to share their experiences to inform recommendations for more coordinated responses to on-campus sexual assault. Over 50 participants from California public, private, and community colleges and universities travelled to Sacramento to provide input and present their recommendations to California legislators and agency staff. A report with these recommendations will be released to California campuses this summer.

“We applaud President Obama for establishing the Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault,” said Sandra Henriquez, Executive Director of CALCASA. “We are grateful for the President’s demonstrated leadership in shining the light on campus sexual violence, identifying appropriate responses and ensuring that the prevention of sexual assault becomes a national priority.”

On May 27 and May 29, 2014, CALCASA’s national prevention program, PreventConnect, will host a web conference highlighting the implication of this report and new pending regulations for preventing sexual violence on college campuses.

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CALCASA is the only statewide organization in California whose sole purpose is to promote public policy, advocacy, training and technical assistance on the issue of sexual assault. CALCASA convenes statewide and national training conferences and its primary membership is composed of the 84 rape crisis centers and rape prevention programs in CA. Its affiliate membership is comprised of local, statewide and national organizations, businesses, and individuals committed to the elimination of sexual violence. For more information, visit www.calcasa.org.

For information about CALCASA’s national online prevention project PreventConnect visit www.preventconnect.org

1215 K Street, Suite 1850
Sacramento, CA 95814

Voice 916.446.2520
FAX 916.446.8166

info@calcasa.org

calcasa.org