

# FEDERAL ANTI-HAZING LEGISLATION AND THE REACH ACT

## Why the REACH Act?

It's bipartisan, evidence-informed, clear and concise.

→ **Standardizes “hazing” definition**—including the three key components of the definition

→ **Inclusion of hazing incidents as crime statistics in Annual Security Reports** under the Clery Act

It is a straightforward addition to the Clery Act and institutions' existing reporting infrastructure - this legislation is not reinventing the wheel.

Hazing statistics allow for incidents and trends to be tracked and analyzed across all institutions in a standardized way. This will help to support prevention.

→ **Evidence-informed hazing prevention education**

The REACH Act includes a hazing prevention element to ensure college students have access to vital information (e.g., warning signs, policies) and build skills (e.g., bystander intervention, ethical leadership) to support hazing prevention.

## About Hazing

Hazing is defined as any activity expected of someone joining or participating in a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers them, regardless of a person's willingness to participate (Hoover, 1999).

The definition of hazing includes three key components:

1. Group Context
2. Humiliating, degrading, or endangering behavior
3. Hazing can occur regardless of a person's willingness to participate

**55%**

of college students involved in clubs, teams, and organizations experience hazing (Allan & Madden, 2008).

For more information, visit [StopHazing.org/issue](https://stophazing.org/issue)

## Federal Anti-hazing Policy

Policy is a core part of comprehensive primary prevention for violence, hazing included.

Examples of federal level policies that have created safer campus communities: Title IX, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Clery Act.

In brief, anti-hazing legislation will help to:

→ **Shift societal norms and structures** that contribute to campus environments where hazing is more likely to occur.

→ **Provide the public with more reliable information** about hazing incidents and trends at an institution and nationwide.

→ **Support colleges and universities** in taking a data-driven approach to campus hazing prevention.

→ **Keep students safe.**



For more information, review 'Federal Anti-Hazing Legislation and the REACH Act: A Concept Paper' here: [StopHazing.org/policy](https://stophazing.org/policy).

[StopHazing.org](https://stophazing.org)

[CleryCenter.org](https://clerycenter.org)

