

## FAST FACTS

The National Study of Student Hazing reports that **55%** of college students involved in clubs, teams, and organizations experience hazing, yet **nine out of ten** students who have experienced hazing do not consider themselves to have been hazed.

Only **25%** of coaches and advisors are aware when hazing is occurring.

Forms of hazing can include:

- alcohol consumption
- humiliation
- isolation
- sleep-deprivation
- sexual assault

Hazing can result in:

- physical, psychological and emotional harm
- embarrassment, humiliation, degradation
- death

**Hazing defined:** Hazing is any action taken or any situation created intentionally that causes embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule and risks emotional and/or physical harm to members of a group or team, whether new or not, regardless of the person's willingness to participate.

*“We believe hazing can be prevented and lives can be saved”*

– Julie and Gary DeVercelly Sr.  
parents of Gary DeVercelly, Jr.

# PREVENT HAZING: SUPPORT THE REACH ACT

The purpose of the Report and Educate About Campus Hazing Act (REACH) [S. 744, H.R. 2525] is to require institutions of higher education to disclose and take action to prevent hazing incidents.

What does REACH do?

- Calls for the inclusion of hazing incidents as Clery Act crime statistics in Annual Security Reports (ASRs).
- Requires comprehensive research-based educational programming on hazing for all stakeholders.
- Uses an inclusive definition of hazing:
  1. Affiliated organization context,
  2. Physical harm, mental harm, or personal degradation, and
  3. Regardless of a student's willingness to participate.

REACH is a clear, concise, and evidence-informed bipartisan bill. REACH will help strengthen campus safety and promote educational environments where students can participate in clubs, organizations, and teams without the mental, emotional, and physical abuse of hazing.

**To support these bills, please contact:**

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# THE DEVERCELLY'S STORY



This year marked 15 years since Gary DeVercelly, Jr. was killed as a result of hazing. Gary Jr. was only 18 when he was killed. Grief changes over time, but it never goes away. We continue to keep Gary Jr. a part of our family by sharing stories and reminiscing about the past. Yet with each passing year, the reality of Gary's permanent

absence sinks in more and more. **Talking about Gary Jr. is easy. Living without him is not.**

We have seen countless other families experience a similar loss. These families, like ours, assumed that anti-hazing laws and policies were effectively enforced, and that if they weren't, organizations were held accountable. As parents we did not have the knowledge that so many college students, administrators, and campus safety professionals do — that hazing on college campuses is pervasive.

We have spent many long, hot days walking the Hill in DC and many early mornings on calls with legislators, sharing our family's tragedy. **But we aren't just raising awareness, we are offering a solution.** At our core, we believe hazing can be prevented and lives can be saved. As we mark the fifteenth anniversary of Gary's death and celebrate the beautiful life he lived, we are emboldened in our commitment to get the REACH Act passed. Please honor Gary's memory and join us.

– Julie & Gary DeVercelly, Sr.

*“I lost so much that night;  
my only child, a best friend.  
I sent him off to VCU to go  
to school and get a higher  
education. And they sent  
him back in a body bag.”*

– Eric Oakes,  
father of Adam Oakes



Adam Oakes was killed in a hazing incident at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2021.

## SUPPORT FOR REACH

The following organizations, along with StopHazing, Clery Center, and SAFE Campuses, LLC, have signed on as endorsers of the REACH Act:

- AHA! Movement
- American Association of Suicidology
- America's Promise Alliance
- Anxiety and Depression Association of America (ADAA)
- Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors
- Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors
- Bolster Collaborative, Inc.
- Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
- End Rape On Campus
- It's On Us
- Love Like Adam
- National Association of People Against Bullying
- National College Athlete Honor Society, Inc.
- National Council for Mental Wellbeing
- National Education Association
- National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA)
- National Women's Law Center
- NIRSA: Leaders in Collegiate Recreation
- Positive Coaching Alliance
- Public Justice
- Robert D Champion Drum Major for Change Foundation
- Soteria Solutions
- Stop Bullying Now Foundation Inc.
- The Jed Foundation
- The Youth Mental Health Project
- Timothy J. Piazza Center for Fraternity and Sorority Research and Reform
- Tyler Clementi Foundation
- Ujima Inc: The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community
- VTV Family Outreach Foundation, Inc.
- ZeroNow

