

*Motion on Supporting Sexual Violence Survivors and Providing Title IX Resources*

**Purpose:** This motion is in response to the lack of transparency and addressment of a possible sexual violence incident, involving Rophynol, several weeks ago. Because no one has filed a Title IX report, Colby College has not currently pursued an investigation; thus, the Colby Administration has not addressed the incident. It seems that there is a consensus among the student body in which the students perceive this lack of response as a lack of transparency and an attempt to obscure whatever unfolded. Though SGA cannot make any statements, referring to the incident directly, it is our duty to emphasize the resources that are available to sexual violence survivors as well as affirm our support. As SGA members, we uphold our core values and do not condone sexual violence. By making this statement, it proves that we are not simply ignoring the possibility that this sexual violence case occurred nor are we making any accusations.

**The What:** This motion condemns sexual violence and reasserts SGA's support of sexual violence survivors and the student body at large. We propose that SGA sends an email to the Colby Student Body that affirms the Title IX resources available and demonstrates that we stand in solidarity with sexual violence survivors. This email also intends to draw upon the previous week's Mental Awareness Week, granting us the opportunity to both highlight the gravity of mental health and introduce this topic of sexual violence in a less targeted way.

**The How:**

This will be in the form of an email to the student body, refer to the appendix below.

**Strengths and Importance:** The discussion of sexual violence is limited, and this email supports the discourse on these matters. In the same vein, many students are unaware of the resources available to them, and this provides us with the perfect opportunity to reassert them. This is an extremely important motion that seeks to establish a sense of unity, and sexual violence survivors need to know of our support.

**Possible Risk Areas:**

- 1) Because this is a sensitive topic, we have to be extremely careful of our phrasing so that the message is received well.
- 2) The Colby Administration does not want us to target any individuals that may or may not have been involved in the event that took place.
- 3) Though we have to be ambiguous about our intentions, we must be direct in our condemnation of sexual violence.

**Intuition and Questions Already Addressed:** The affects of sexual violence on the long term mental health of survivors is often overlooked. Discussions of mental health typically touch upon the symptoms but do not often address the cause of distress. We feel that this motion will not only provide resources for those struggling with mental trauma but also show survivors that the representatives of the Student Body condemn sexual violence and stand with survivors.

**Contact Information for Questioning, Clarification, or Pre-meeting Critiques:**

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## **Appendix:**

As we reflect upon last week's Mental Health Awareness Week, the SGA would like to emphasize that we stand with sexual assault survivors. Experiencing sexual violence can trigger many mental health concerns, including, but not limited to, post traumatic stress, depression, and anxiety. Symptoms of which often leave victims feeling isolated and alone, which is why it is important to have resources and a support network in place. The SGA would like to reiterate that Colby offers many resources specifically tailored to the needs of victims of sexual misconduct. As with all college campuses, sexual violence has a presence at Colby, and as SGA representatives, we want to make sure that survivors feel both supported and welcomed on our campus. We seek to actively mitigate the prevalency of sexual violence on campus. Please take advantage of the following resources:

### **Confidential Support Services**

#### **Colby Health**

Garrison Foster Health Center  
Room 205  
(207) 859-4460  
[healthservices@colby.edu](mailto:healthservices@colby.edu)

#### **Counselling Services**

(207) 859-4490

#### **Emily Schusterbauer**

Confidential Title IX Advocate  
Pugh 238  
(207) 859-4093  
[eeschust@colby.edu](mailto:eeschust@colby.edu)

#### **Kate Smanik**

Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life  
(207) 859-4272  
[kesmanik@colby.edu](mailto:kesmanik@colby.edu)

#### **Maine's Assault Health Line**

(800) 871-7741

#### **Maine's Domestic/Dating Abuse Helpline**

(866) 834-4357

## **Non-Confidential Reporting Services**

### **Meg Hatch**

Title IX Coordinator

(207) 859-4266

[mshatch@colby.edu](mailto:mshatch@colby.edu)

### **Waterville Police Non-Emergency**

(207) 680-4700

### **Waterville Police Emergency**

(911)

### **Campus Security**

(207) 859-5911

For more information, you can go to <https://life.colby.edu/your-safety/sexual-violence-title-ix/>.

In addition, SGA representatives host office hours located in the Student Government Association Office in the Spa, and SGA meetings are open to the Colby Student Body. The office hours and SGA meeting times are posted below. We love the Colby community, which is why we want to work with our fellow students to continue making it a better place, so please feel free to provide any concerns or suggestions.

[List of office hours and meeting times]

Sincerely,

Student Government Association of Colby College