



TYLER CLEMENTI HIGHER EDUCATION ANTI-HARASSMENT ACT OF 2014

Sponsored by Sen. Patty Murray and Sen. Tammy Baldwin

In 2010, Tyler Clementi, a freshman at Rutgers University, took his own life after his roommate and another student invaded his privacy and harassed him over the Internet. He was eighteen-years-old.

Tyler is one of thousands of college students who are harassed on campus and over the Internet each year. According to a 2004 study by Rowan University, 27.5 percent of college students indicated they had seen students being bullied by other students. LGBT students are nearly twice as likely as their peers to experience harassment, and are far more likely to indicate the harassment was based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. However, there is no requirement that colleges and universities have policies to protect their students and employees from harassment. Nor is there Federal aid dedicated to enact programs to prevent and reduce harassment against students. The *Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act of 2014* requires colleges and universities to prohibit harassment and establishes within the Department of Education a grant program to support campus anti-harassment programs.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The Act:

- Requires colleges and universities receiving federal aid to establish an anti-harassment policy prohibiting the harassment of enrolled students based on their actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religion.
- Requires colleges to distribute their anti-harassment policy to all students and employees, including prospective students and employees, upon request.
- Recognizes “cyberbullying,” which includes harassment undertaken through electronic messaging services, commercial mobile services, and other electronic communications.
- Authorizes a competitive grant program for institutions of higher education to initiate, expand, or improve programs to: (a) prevent the harassment of students; (b) provide counseling or redress services to students who have been harassed or accused of subjecting other students to harassment; and (c) train students, faculty, or staff to prevent harassment or address harassment if it occurs.

This legislation was most recently introduced by the late Sen. Lautenberg in 2013 (S.216). The language of Sen. Murray’s and Sen. Baldwin’s Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act of 2014 is updated language of the bill introduced by Sen. Lautenberg.