



Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor

Executive Order

NUMBER TWENTY FIVE (2014)

ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON COMBATING CAMPUS SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Importance of the Taskforce

Nationwide, colleges and universities are increasingly aware of the necessity to combat sexual violence on campus. While institutions of higher education are typically safe environments for students to thrive, both academically and personally, sexual violence is an issue that colleges and universities should confront and strive to prevent.

Virginia's colleges and universities have signed a Joint Declaration pledging to work together to prevent sexual violence. Moreover, they are each committed to providing an atmosphere designed to promote the fair and equitable investigation, adjudication, and timely reporting of sexual violence. Our institutions of higher learning already offer both mandatory and voluntary programs for awareness and prevention of sexual violence. For those adversely affected by sexual violence, Virginia's campuses also furnish resources, or coordinate referral to external, community-based resources, such as counseling, medical care, and alternative living and educational environments.

Through this Executive Order, I am collaborating with the Attorney General of Virginia, who has a critical role as counsel to Virginia's public colleges and universities, and encouraging leaders from college campuses, law enforcement, mental health, and advocacy groups, to seek and recommend solutions that will bring critical awareness and identify best practices to aggressively combat sexual violence on campus.

Establishment of the Task Force

Accordingly, with the authority vested in me by Article V of the Constitution of Virginia and under the laws of the Commonwealth, including but not limited to §§ 2.2-134 and 2.2-135 of the *Code of Virginia*, and subject to my continuing and ultimate authority and responsibility to act in such matters, I hereby create the Governor's Task Force on Combating Campus Sexual Violence.

Governor's Task Force on Combating Campus Sexual Violence

The Task Force's responsibilities shall include the following:

- **Recommend best practices for protocols used by campus officials, including campus police, Title IX Coordinators, and others, to respond to sexual violence on campus.**
- **Recommend best practice to reinforce existing relationships and form new relationships between Virginia's institutions of higher education, campus police, local law enforcement, commonwealth's attorneys, crisis response centers, mental health counselors, and advocacy organizations, to include the development of a model memorandum of understanding that will delineate respective responsibilities for investigations, sharing of information, and training.**
- **Recommend best practices for policies governing sexual violence and associated procedures for the investigation and resolution of complaints, and revise such policies and procedures, if needed, to meet all legal requirements.**
- **Examine sexual violence prevention and awareness programs and recommend measures to maximize best practices for sexual violence training for students, faculty, and staff, as well as bystander intervention programs and mandatory training for incoming residential students, at all of Virginia's universities and colleges.**
- **Recommend measures to encourage reporting of sexual violence.**
- **Assess the degree of accessibility of campus services and programs, coordination with community resources and programs, and efforts to make students aware of these resources.**

Task Force Membership

The Task Force will be chaired by the Attorney General of Virginia. The Task Force will be comprised of the Secretaries of Education, Health and Human Resources, Public Safety and Homeland Security, representatives of the higher education community, law enforcement, community advocates, health professionals, and relevant government agencies, not to exceed more than thirty members, as appointed by the Governor. The Governor may appoint any other person(s) and support staff deemed necessary and proper to carry out the assigned functions.

Task Force Staffing and Funding

Staff support for the Task Force's work during its existence shall be furnished by the Office of the Governor, and the Offices of the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, as well as other agencies and offices designated by the Governor.

The Office of the Attorney General will provide legal staff to the Task Force, both through the OAG representatives serving on the Task Force and others, as needed.

Necessary funding to support the Commission and its staff shall be provided from federal funds, private contributions, and state funds appropriated for the same purposes as the Task Force, as authorized by § 2.2-135 of the *Code of Virginia*, as well as any other private sources of funding that may be identified. Estimated direct costs for this Task Force are \$5,000 per year.

The Task Force will serve in an advisory role and will provide a final report to the Governor by no later than June 1, 2015. The Task Force will issue other reports as necessary or as requested by the Governor.

Effective Date of the Executive Order

This Executive Order shall be effective upon signing and, pursuant to §§ 2.2-134 and 2.2-135 of the *Code of Virginia*, shall remain in force and effect for one year from its signing unless amended or rescinded by further executive order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 21st day of August, 2014.



Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor

Attest:

Levar M. Stoney, Secretary of the Commonwealth