



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Terence R. McAuliffe
Governor

March 18, 2015

Dear Members of the Task Force Combating Campus Sexual Violence:

Seven months ago, I created this task force to tackle the difficult challenges facing Virginia's colleges and universities as they work to prevent sexual assault and keep our students and communities free from the threat of sexual violence. Virginia can and must be a leader in addressing this problem head on, so we can strengthen our world-renowned institutions of higher education and continue to build a new Virginia economy.

The issue I asked you to address is complex, multi-faceted, and requires an all-encompassing approach—from awareness, to prevention, to response. It requires law enforcement, university officials, students, advocacy organizations, experts, and others to come together to find solutions that will not only effectively address situations in a manner that is fair to all parties, but will also help prevent future violence and tragedy.

During this year's legislative session, members of the General Assembly and I agreed that there were positive first steps that could be taken to address this issue, with the ultimate goal of having the Task Force complete a broad, comprehensive set of recommendations by June. I am encouraged by the progress made by the General Assembly this year, but there is still more work that must be done to make sure that our college campuses are safe, and to raise awareness about the importance of the issue.

You have taken on that task with diligence and care, and I thank you for the work you have done to develop the recommendations presented today. I am equally impressed by your willingness and ability to work collaboratively with one another, taking into consideration each person's opinion and perspective.

I want to thank Attorney General Herring for his leadership in chairing this task force, and I look forward to reviewing your recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terence McAuliffe', written over a large, stylized, light-colored circular mark.

Terence R. McAuliffe