



# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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## **SA1516-020: Resolution Supporting AB 430 and Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Advocates**

DATE: November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015

AUTHOR(S): Patrick Brever, Jacob Schimmel

SPONSOR(S): Joint Sexual Violence Action Committee, (Violence Prevention Specialist) Ingrid Peterson, (Director of Affirmative Action & Title IX Coordinator) Nizam Arain, (Counseling and Testing Director) Gretchen Reinders

WHEREAS; Wisconsin state assembly bill 430 was introduced on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 addressing the issue of survivor advocacy in legal matters;

WHEREAS; currently, a survivor of sexual assault and domestic abuse has the option to be accompanied by an advocate in only a limited number of court proceedings. This new bill would allow the survivor to have an advocate by their side for all stages of the criminal justice process if they want one. This would also include forensic exams, interviews with law enforcement, and any other legal proceedings that may take place;

WHEREAS; this bill would ensure that all survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence are given the right to a trained victim advocate during any and all stages of the criminal justice process if they so choose;

WHEREAS; these advocates guarantee emotional support and assistance to survivors when they most need it;

WHEREAS; guaranteeing the presence of victim advocates will help to ensure that survivors are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect. Advocates encourage an environment where survivors feel safe to report sexual assault;

WHEREAS; sexual assault is the one of the most under reported crimes in the country and approximately 65% of them go unreported to law enforcement according to the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault;

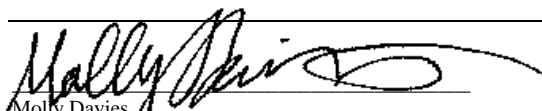
WHEREAS; up-to-date Violence Prevention statistics show that at least 11 sexual assaults have occurred at UW-L for the 2015-2016 academic school year;

WHEREAS; 11 other states and the District of Columbia have laws similar to proposal AB 430, which guarantees the right of a victim advocate in cases of sexual assault;

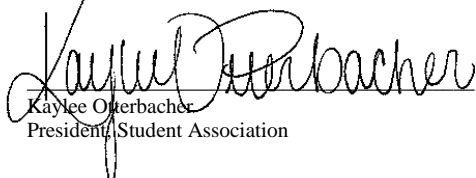
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; the Student Association of the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse supports AB430.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; upon its passing, a copy of this resolution is to be sent to State Senator Jennifer Schilling and State Representative Jill Billings.

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Molly Davies  
President, Student Senate  
Vice-President, Student Association

11-04-2015  
Date

  
Kaylee Otterbacher  
President, Student Association

11-04-2015  
Date