



CONTACT

Communications Team, GENup
EMAIL: info@generationup.net
WEB: generationup.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAFE Kit Accessibility (AB 1138) *Press release*

Sacramento, California, 19 April 2023 —On Monday, GENup representatives Allyson Chan, Kate Rodgers, and Durriya Ahmed held a press conference alongside coalition partner IGNITE with 30-40 supporters in attendance to announce AB 1138. Written by GENup and introduced by Assemblymember Akilah Weber, AB1138 requires that UCs, CSUs and California Community Colleges provide their students free and safe transportation to and from Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) kit exams and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) exams.

An estimated thirteen percent of all undergraduate students will experience some form of sexual assault before they graduate. “Even with existing campus resources, only one in five female college-aged survivors receive support from a victim services agency,” said Allyson Chan, the Collegiate Chief of Staff for GENup. AB1138 will ensure that student survivors have access to necessary care in the aftermath of an assault.

Many campuses across California are unable to administer SAFE or SART exams on site, while the nearest exam location is often miles away. Students without access to transportation are often unable to receive the care needed. “Too many of our undergraduates aren’t even able to get to a rape crisis center or a local hospital,” said Alexandra Leal, Southern California fellow for IGNITE National. “They cannot afford the rideshare or the gas.”

In addition, students are often directed to call the police to access necessary transportation. However, this current system poses a problem. “How could the police be a safe option for Black and Brown survivors, whose communities face systemic and institutionalized violence at the hands of law enforcement every day?” said Filza Vaid, the Internal Vice President and Policy Director for IGNITE at UCLA. Additionally, GENup’s Collegiate Director of Media Durriya Ahmed drew attention to the lack of access to resources for marginalized communities. “At least fifteen Black women are not reporting their assaults for every one that does,” they noted. LGBTQ+ individuals and people of color are often at higher risk of sexual assault and harrasment. Many are unable to receive necessary forensic care.

GENup and IGNITE representatives opened [coalition applications](#) for individuals to join us in advocating for this bill. Kate Rodgers, a Collegiate Director of Policy for GENup called on legislators to ensure “no student has to worry about the cost and safety of accessing essential sexual assault forensic care.” We invite all students affected by this bill to join us in advocating for essential care for sexual assault survivors.

By passing AB1138 into law, we remove barriers to necessary care. GENup, IGNITE, and our SAFETY (Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Transportation for Youth) coalition partners will continue to fight for student survivors of sexual assault and create equitable pathways to forensic care.

###