Improve – Not Eliminate – Sexual Assault Report

Madison – February 27, 2015 – With the heightened awareness of sexual assault on college campuses, Governor Walker’s budget proposal sends the wrong message by eliminating several state requirements of the University of Wisconsin System concerning sexual assault.

On behalf of sexual assault survivors, we would rather that Governor Walker propose improving the required report on campus sexual assault to the state’s Department of Justice, rather than eliminate the report. If there are concerns of duplication with federal requirements for campuses to report sexual assault data, Wisconsin should become the leader in providing the most comprehensive and most helpful report possible. Wisconsin can do this by implementing the White House's recommendations to use campus climate surveys and other methods to obtain a more accurate description of sexual assault in college.

“While we appreciate Governor Walker’s previous support of sexual assault victim services funding, Governor Walker’s current budget proposal essentially flat funds sexual assault victim services, including those provided on college campuses,” stated Pennie Meyers, executive director of the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault would welcome an opportunity to work with the state legislature to increase funding for sexual assault victim services, and to improve public data reporting of sexual assault, prosecution rates, and other measures of addressing sexual violence on and off college campuses.

###

The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA, www.wcasa.org) is a membership agency comprised of organizations and individuals working to end sexual violence in Wisconsin. Among these are the 50 sexual assault service provider agencies throughout the state that offer support, advocacy and information to survivors of sexual assault and their families. WCASA works to ensure that every survivor in Wisconsin gets the support and care they need. WCASA also works to create the social change necessary to ensure a future where no child, woman or man is ever sexually violated again.