

National Panhellenic Conference
North-American Interfraternity Conference
3901 W. 86th Street
Suite 398/Suite 390
Indianapolis, IN 46268



April 17, 2015

Dear Interfraternal Leader:

In 12 days, the Fraternal Government Relations Coalition (FGRC) will have its annual Congressional visit day, where more than 200 national fraternity and sorority leaders, both alumni and students, discuss public policy concerns that face our organizations with congressional leaders. We appreciate that so many talented fraternal leaders have made time to come to Washington and represent our 725,000 students and our more than eight million alumni.

As in years past, we expect a very full day talking with alumni who work on Capitol Hill, reconnecting with old friends, and creating new relationships with policymakers, as we explain why fraternities and sororities add value and make a difference in building the next generation of community, government and business leaders.

In the last several months, an enormous amount of attention has been paid to the less than positive side of fraternity and sorority life. Our time on the Hill gives us the opportunity to tell our story and reconnect policymakers to the positive aspects of the sorority and fraternity experience. We must focus on the good work that 725,000 students do every day: high achievement in the classroom, volunteering and contributing to their campuses and communities, and building the skills needed to be successful in tomorrow's society.

One of the most troubling issues facing students today is sexual violence and sexual misconduct on campus. We have been listening to our membership. The FGRC has been moved to action because of the concerns shared with us by many students and alumni/alumnae directly affected by campus sexual assault. We embrace the challenge of being part of the conversation to find a solution.

As campus leaders, fraternities and sororities have an obligation to have a voice in the debate about how to improve campus safety for our members and for all students. We have spent months discussing this problem on many levels - led by the NIC and NPC's respective task forces on student safety and campus sexual assault - and we've engaged with our members and a number of outside entities to try and set a path for pinpointing possible solutions. This is too important an issue for our organizations to remain silent.

When our national leaders are in Washington on April 29, we will use a portion of our time in Congressional offices to talk about what our organizations are already doing to combat campus sexual assault and provide assistance to those students who are affected by such violence. We will also be seeking to engage each Congressional office to better understand what they do and don't know about the campus sexual assault problem, and how we can help with proposed solutions.

From these visits, the FGRC leadership will have a better sense of what proposed solutions will work for our members, and all students. Importantly, we can determine who in Congress is most interested in working with us on those solutions. FGRC will not be lobbying for or against any specific Congressional proposals on campus sexual assault in April; however, we expect our conversations to lead us to actively endorse such proposals later in the year when Congress considers reauthorizing the Higher Education Act.

We appreciate the time, talent and treasure your organization dedicates to making sure our collective voice is heard in Congressional policy debates that impact our members. We look forward to being with you in Washington on April 29.

Interfraternally,



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National Panhellenic Conference
Chairman 2013-15



Pete Smithhisler
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