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## **AFL Files Rulemaking Petition With Department of Education: Make Colleges Publicly Disclose Political Violence, Riots, and Assaults Under Clery Act**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Today, America First Legal (AFL) filed a petition for rulemaking urging the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to require colleges and universities to regularly disclose all instances of politically or religiously motivated violence occurring on or near campus.

The Clery Act was enacted in 1990 after the tragic rape and murder of Jeanne Clery, a Lehigh University freshman killed in her dorm room by a student with a violent criminal history that the university had failed to disclose. Her parents fought for the law to ensure students, parents, and the public have access to accurate information about campus safety. The Act generally requires colleges to publish annual security reports detailing serious crimes, maintain public crime logs, and issue timely warnings.

Yet amid the surge in politically and religiously motivated violence in recent years, critical gaps remain: current regulations do not explicitly require reporting of many incidents linked to protests, demonstrations, or riots—allowing universities to underreport or obscure serious assaults, property damage, and intimidation.

To close these gaps, AFL’s petition asks the Department of Education to:

- Amend the Clery Act regulations to require colleges and universities to document in their annual security reports statistics on specific offenses that occur in connection with violent protest activity, demonstrations, or riots.
- Require universities to produce and publish a Political and Religious Violence Transparency Report that details all violent protests, riots, politically or religiously motivated assaults, and protest-related property damage.

Recent examples highlight the necessity of this reporting. At [UC Berkeley](#) in February 2017, protests against Milo Yiannopoulos caused over \$100,000 in property damage and multiple injuries. In 2024, pro-Palestinian agitators at [Columbia](#) broke into campus buildings, while dozens were arrested at [Yale](#) during unruly anti-Israel protests. In November 2025, demonstrators attempted to breach police barricades at a [UC Berkley](#) Turning Point USA event, leading to multiple arrests and a U.S. Department of Justice

inquiry. Similar events at [UCLA](#), [Cornell](#), [UC Davis](#), and [Princeton](#) involved property damage, assaults, and confrontations with police.

Many of these incidents are not fully captured in current Clery Act reports, leaving students and parents without essential safety information. Students and parents across the country deserve to know whether colleges and universities take adequate measures to protect the physical security and civil rights of students on campus, and the federal government has the authority to require the provision of this information. Schools that do not comply could face significant fines, penalties, and loss of access to federal funding.

“Universities are meant to be hubs for the free exchange of ideas. Instead, they are hubs of violence and intimidation,” said Emily Percival, Senior Counsel at America First Legal. “This conduct — though masked as free speech — is not protected by the First Amendment. For too long, Universities have allowed this plague of violence to fester in the darkness. Students and parents deserve the truth about what is happening on campus, and the Universities should be the ones shining the light.”

Read the full petition [here](#).

Learn more about AFL’s fight for parental rights and education [here](#).