



SENATOR  
**EARLINE S. ROGERS**  
116TH INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ★ SENATE DISTRICT 3

**NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release:*  
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*Media Contact:*  
Peg McLeish, 317-232-9507  
Elise Shrock, 317-232-9496

**Rogers bill to promote dating violence awareness approved by House**

INDIANAPOLIS – On Thursday the Indiana House of Representatives approved legislation that would require the Indiana Department of Education, in collaboration with the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault and other organizations, to develop or identify model dating violence educational materials and a model for dating violence response policies for Indiana schools. Senate Bill 316, authored by State Senator Earline S. Rogers (D-Gary), was approved by a vote of 66 to 31.

The bill would require the Department of Education to include in its guidelines the warning signs of dating violence, the basic principles of dating violence prevention and methods of parental education and outreach. The department's model dating violence policy would have to include a statement that dating violence is not tolerated, procedures for reporting incidents of dating violence, guidelines for responding to dating violence, guidelines concerning orders of protection issued on behalf of students, designation of a prevention coordinator to facilitate prevention education and discipline procedures.

"Dating violence is a serious problem that continues to get worse," said Rogers. "By educating young people about it, we can help prevent dating violence before it happens."

According to data from Children's Bureau Inc., one in five teens in a serious relationship report being physically abused by their partner. One in three teens report knowing a friend or peer who has been punched, slapped, choked, or physically hurt by his or her partner. A 2005 study also found that one in five high school girls report having been physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner.

Since the bill was amended in the House, it will go back to the Indiana Senate for final approval.

For more information on Sen. Rogers, her legislative agenda or other State Senate business call 1-800-382-9467 or visit [www.senatedemocrats.in.gov](http://www.senatedemocrats.in.gov).

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