

Statement from Deputy Secretary of Transportation and Acting Maritime Administrator to Kings Point Community



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

Dear Kings Point Community:

We write today to express our unwavering support for the individual who has shared her story of a sexual assault that took place during Sea Year. U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), the Maritime Administration (MARAD) and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) are committed to her safety and welfare, along with that of all midshipmen at USMMA, and we stand ready to provide our support to her and to all survivors. Our trained, professional victim advocates from our Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) office are here to help all students and are available 24/7 to provide confidential assistance to anyone in need.

Providing resources for students after these events happen is not enough. We must prevent them from occurring in the first place. We have zero tolerance for sexual assault and sexual harassment at USMMA and in the maritime industry. As we determine the appropriate steps required to increase and ensure the safety of our midshipmen, we pledge to listen to and work closely with the entire Kings Point community. We especially want our students to know that we value their voices and want to make sure they are part of any decisions that could potentially affect our Sea Year training program.

To the entire Kings Point community, thank you for remaining a source of strength for our shipmates. We have heard from many of you and know that you have questions and concerns. On behalf of Secretary Buttigieg and the entire Department, we are committed to moving swiftly and resolutely to address sexual assault and harassment, protect and support survivors, and fulfill our deep commitment to the vital work of the USMMA.

Thank you,

Polly Trottenberg
Deputy Secretary

Lucinda Lessley
Acting Maritime Administrator