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RAPE PREVENTION VIDEO HAS WIDE SUPPORT

Although she is entitled to her opinions about the video program, "Rape is not an Option," Ms. Pamela Von Kleist must be taken to task when she says that this program is based on "false beliefs about rape and is therefore invalid."

This program features Solicitor Donald V. Myers and Solicitor Richard Harpootlian and attorneys **Jack Swerling** and Malissa Burnette. Lexington County Sheriff James Metts calls it "the best rape reduction program" and endorses it to law enforcement. For Ms. Von Kleist to suggest that these credible individuals would participate in a program that is based on "false beliefs about rape" is absurd.

While espousing the position that women must empower themselves with the knowledge and the skills to avoid attack, this program very clearly states that if a woman cannot avoid the attack, her goal is to survive. How she chooses to survive is her option, based on the circumstances in which she finds herself. And rape is not an option she would choose. Valid differences of opinion based on facts are good, especially about this topic which is met with apathy by many men and women. As a non-paid participant in "Rape is not an Option," as director of the Victim Witness Program for Solicitor Harpootlian and as a female, I take exception to Ms. Von Kleist taking statements from this program out of context in an effort to support her position.

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