

To Honorable Representative Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

March 8, 2026

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

We are writing to you in support of the Rhode Island House Bill 7206 on behalf of the Reproductive Justice Club at Brown University. Our club is dedicated to spreading awareness about reproductive justice initiatives and promoting reproductive health for all.

Rhode Island House Bill 7206, also known as the Speak Your Truth Act, seeks to preserve the rights of survivors of sexual harm to speak in good faith about their experience without fear of retaliatory defamation lawsuits. Not only would this bill protect good faith disclosures about sexual assault, harassment, and discrimination, it would also allow survivors to recover attorney's fees if they have successfully defended their case against retaliatory defamation lawsuits.

Currently, the Rhode Island anti SLAPP statute provides protections against lawsuits for issues of public concern, but courts frequently and incorrectly characterize sexual assault and sexual harassment as issues of private concern, not public concern. This means that the state statute does not protect many survivor disclosures, particularly those made within campus communities.

As students of the University, we believe that passing this bill is of the utmost importance in ensuring campus safety. No student should have to choose between telling the truth or staying silent in order to stay safe. Staying silent will only perpetuate the cycle of violence as the lack of consequences will enable the perpetrator to continue their actions.

Thank you for your consideration and we kindly urge you to support the Rhode Island House Bill 7206.

Sincerely,
Brown Reproductive Justice Club