

03/11/2026

House Committee on Judiciary  
State of Rhode Island  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: In Support for House Bill 7206

Dear Chair McEntee and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Catherine Tiley and I am a resident of Cranston (Senate District 31, House District 16). I volunteer for and actively attend events ran by nonprofit organizations that support protecting reproductive rights, LGBTQIA+ rights, as well as the rights of survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

I am writing in support of House Bill 7206. I am a survivor of sexual assault and, like many other female identifying/presenting individuals, have experienced harrassment and discrimination. I have people in my life who are survivors. I have people in my life who, like myself, were or presently are drowning in fear - fear of retaliation, fear of existing in a society they know is not safe for female identifying/presenting individuals. Every day I see people on social media who are not believed, who are afraid, who are forgotten or punished for the pain they have been put through in traumatizing court cases. It is because of fear that I have not shared my sexual assault and abuse with others until recently.

This bill is so important because it explicitly protects survivors of sexual assault, harrassment, and discrimination. It gives us the strength to speak out, knowing we no longer will have to fear retaliation or weaponized defamation lawsuits. We can be open and honest about our experiences. It helps us regain some of our power and control. It lets us know we are not alone. We can feel safe.

I urge you to pass a favorable report on House Bill 7206. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Tiley  
Cranston, Rhode Island