

RI House Labor Committee
RI State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

May 1, 2024

Re: Testimony in Support of H8044 titled Workplace Psychological Safety Act

Dear Chair Corvese, First Vice Chair Messier, Second Vice Chair Alzate, and Honorable House Labor Committee members:

My name is Angela Gonzalez-Hassan and I am a member of [End Workplace Abuse](#). I support H8044, titled the Workplace Psychological Safety Act. I encountered a toxic workplace culture marked by discrimination, harassment, and bullying, which has taken a toll on my mental health and overall well-being.

- When I joined the organization, I brought a wealth of healthcare management expertise and a stellar academic background.
- I was a former high-school dropout who eventually returned to school, acquired 3 college degrees, and relocated to another state as a single mom to pursue a better life for me and my daughter. This position was the pinnacle of my success, as I was determined not to be a statistic.
- The discrimination, harassment, and bullying I endured at work was compounded by the intersectionality of my mixed-race identity and cultural background.
- After I complained to HR, I was retaliated against, given an unfair performance review, and was ultimately fired, despite my exemplary performance and significant contributions.
- For the past two years I have faced financial insecurity and housing instability. I was forced to resort to driving for Lyft to make ends meet, risking personal safety and enduring financial strain.
- In October 2023 I suffered a near-fatal accident while driving for Lyft, resulting in physical injuries which exacerbated my existing challenges.
- I have grappled with profound emotional distress, including suicidal ideation, as a result of the traumatic experiences endured from my former employer.
 - I have navigated legal proceedings pro se trying to address my wrongful termination, encountering further obstacles in the pursuit of accountability.

I wholeheartedly support Workplace Psychological Safety Act because no one should have to endure what I went through or worse. When I heard the news of Lincoln University's VP of Student Affairs, Dr. Antoinette Candia-Bailey's suicide a few months ago, it was triggering. That could have been me. That is someone right now contemplating taking their life because they are not safe or protected from inhumane treatment at work. All of the above statements are true.

We can do better and I urge you to vote in favor of H8044.

Thank you for hearing my voice of concern to put an end to these negligent abusive practices.

Sincerely,
Angela Gonzalez-Hassan
2620 N. Berkeley Lake Rd. Apt 418 Duluth, GA 30096

