

I work in this state as a mental health counselor working with ages 10 and up, and have been a citizen of this state my entire life. It is through both of these lenses that I must be in opposition of this bill.

This bill has a grave potential to not only be used as retaliation against legitimate survivors, but to further increase the stigma and fear already associated with legitimate survivors in saying something in the first place, making it harder for them to get the justice they deserve. Sexual harassment and assault is often very difficult to prove already contributing to this stigma and fear, and suggesting that by speaking up one should be criminalized if not able to provide enough evidence of their trauma to convince the public. Furthermore, definition of claims and “false and frivolous” is undefined and vague, leaving a lot of room for interpretation that would drastically limit the rights of those who do survive such an attack.

While false allegations are certainly undesirable, the harm this bill will do to survivors will drastically outweigh any potential benefit it might have for those falsely accused. This will have a negative effect on the mental health of survivors of such attacks within this state.