

Dear Chair Lee and the members of the Senate Human Service Committee, I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HB 1256.

Having reviewed and analyzed the testimony on this bill, I think that it sits exactly where we want it to. The question we face is if we want to really make someone pause before considering pursuing a sexual harassment or discrimination claim, knowing that without enough evidence, it could result in criminal penalty.

I believe this bill will make the number of false accusations go down from wherever it is right now. I believe this bill will also cause innocent people, who have been victims of sexual harassment, to be charged with a misdemeanor. I believe it is fair to say both of these things will happen.

I would like to also empathize with the fear individuals have that false accusations can destroy lives and careers. I think individuals who fraudulently and maliciously utilize our systems should be fully punished for doing so.

However, I do think that if this bill becomes law, I would caution anyone coming forward with any complaint that is not matched by very concrete evidence due to the risks. And I believe abusers will take this bill as the power to harass and discriminate whenever they're behind closed doors with their victim. So long as they don't leave concrete evidence, this bill is carte blanche on their actions. I think the most common line we hear from abusers to victims is, “Go ahead and tell, who will believe you?”

A new common line may be, “Go ahead and tell, I'll make sure you go to jail.” It is for these reasons I feel that this bill is perhaps not the right approach and we should seek some other resolution to the complaints this bill attempts to address.

Thank you for your time and service to our state,
Faye Seidler

Legislative Analysis Snapshot

Main Themes in Favor

1. [Needs to be punishment for false claims](#)
2. [False claims are happening a great deal](#)
3. [Reported false claims higher than expected](#)

Main Themes in Opposition

1. [Chilling impact on survivors coming forward](#)
2. [Incentivizes anyone cleared of misconduct to turn around and criminalize accuser](#)
3. [Increase stigma and fear in testifying](#)
4. [Enforceably is questionable and problematic](#)

Main Themes Neutral

1. [Could cause a youth to not disclose due to hearing about extra punishments](#)

Written Testimony	In Favor	In Opposition
Word Count	1800	1,400
Citizen	2	1
Stakeholder/Qualified	0	4
Politician	2	0
Total 9	4	5
	44.44%	55.56%
In person testimony Mins	23	5
Total Minutes 28	82.14%	17.86%
Committee Vote	Do pass	Don't pass
Total 12	7	5
	58.33%	41.67%
Floor Vote	Yay	Nay
Total 94	53	41
	56.38%	43.62%