Testimony: H7206

SUPPORT for Speak Your Truth Act

March 4th, 2026

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

My name is Eliza Sirpenski, and I am the Administrative Policy Lead at The Womxn Project, a Rhode Island-based nonprofit that frequently focuses on matters related to reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and government transparency.

I am writing in strong support of H7206. If passed, this bill would increase protections for those who have spoken out about their experience with sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, discrimination, and more. This bill would allow survivors to share their experiences without being afraid of being sued for defamation.

The Womxn Project supports this bill because we stand with survivors. Those who have survived sexual abuse, assault, and harassment should not have to live in fear of facing legal consequences and going to court for simply discussing their own experiences. Survivors should not have to be afraid of further victimization through retaliation and weaponized defamation lawsuits. Experiencing sexual violence, harassment, and discrimination is traumatic enough to begin with, and there is no need to further traumatize survivors in the court of law just because they were open and honest about what they went through.

I urge the committee to support this bill and increase protections for survivors. It already takes a great amount of courage for survivors to come forward, and this will take away some of the fear that they experience when doing so. Rhode Island must make it clear that it supports survivors of sexual abuse, assault, and harrassment, and that retaliation is unacceptable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Eliza Sirpenski, *Administrative Policy Lead*
The Womxn Project