

Dear Members of the Minnesota Legislature,

I am writing to urge you to **please support proposed bill HF 104 and SF 2200**.

As a sexual violence survivor, I strongly support this bill, which would protect information gathered in restorative practices from being used in any court or administrative proceedings.

I know first-hand the impact this bill could have. Nearly 15 years ago, I experienced stalking, multiple forms of sexual violence, and repeated rape at the hands of an intimate partner.

At the time, I knew very little about my options for accountability or support. What I *did* know was that the odds of my perpetrator being held accountable by the criminal or civil justice system were exceptionally low. So I chose not make a police report or seek legal action, like the majority of sexual violence survivors. Those were not the right options for me at the time.

What I wanted and needed in the aftermath of my assaults was instead:

- For my perpetrator to apologize and to acknowledge the lasting harms he caused me.
- For my community to validate that what happened to me was wrong and not my fault.
- A chance to speak my experience aloud and have it heard by others.
- Access to resources to promote my immediate safety and long-term healing.

In the years since my assault, I have trained as a volunteer Sexual Assault Crisis Advocate, worked in Title IX on campuses, served on the Ramsey County Sexual Assault Protocol Team, led statewide sexual violence prevention efforts at the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, and helped to launch the Minnesota Institute for Trauma-Informed Education at the University of St. Thomas. I have encountered, listened to, and advocated for many other survivors who yearn for additional or alternative options for accountability and healing.

This bill would give survivors like me – and the others that I stand in solidarity with – expanded agency, options and choice: the very things taken from us in our experiences of sexual violence.

The 20 community organizations who have signed their support of this bill clearly recognize the power of expanding choices for survivors and empowering additional pathways to accountability, public safety, and healing. I hope that you can envision and support this opportunity, too.

With gratitude,

Laura Livalska  
638 Summit Avenue #2  
St. Paul, MN 55105