

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Robin Miller**. I am a survivor of sex trafficking, and I am also an adult who has engaged in consensual and transactional sex. Those experiences are different, but both inform why I am here today **in support of House Bill 4157**.

For survivors of trafficking and coercive sexual exploitation, the most dangerous and revealing moments are often immediately before, during, or after a commercial sex act. That is when disclosures happen — not in polished statements, but in crisis, fear, and exhaustion.

Those disclosures are often made to first responders: police officers, EMTs, firefighters, probation officers — the first people a survivor encounters when control briefly loosens.

HB 4157 recognizes a reality survivors understand well: **early statements are often the most truthful**, because they are made before fear, threats, financial dependence, or manipulation have time to take hold again.

Many survivors later recant. That does not mean the abuse did not happen. It often means:

- They are being threatened
- They depend on the person exploiting them
- They fear retaliation or losing housing, children, or safety
- Or they are overwhelmed by the legal system

Recantation is frequently a sign of coercion — not fabrication.

This bill does not silence survivors. It **preserves their voice at the moment it first emerges**, when it is least filtered by survival pressure.

HB 4157 also does not eliminate safeguards. Judges must still assess reliability, corroboration, timing, and context. Defense counsel retains full ability to challenge credibility. Constitutional protections remain intact.

What this bill prevents is a common and devastating outcome: responsibility to prove harm is the onus of victims.

I want to directly address concerns that this bill could harm adult sex workers or erase consent. As someone with lived experience in consensual and transactional sex, I do not see this bill as an attack on autonomy. I see it as a **context-based tool** — one that focuses on coercion, exploitation, and trafficking, not morality.

HB 4157 does not criminalize consensual adult sex. It targets those who exploit, traffic, and profit from coercion — and it recognizes that survivors should not have to carry the full burden of prosecution forever.

Our system too often expects perfect victims: consistent, fearless, and unwavering. Real survivors rarely fit that mold.

HB 4157 brings the law closer to reality. It acknowledges trauma, coercion, and the reasons survivors go silent — and it ensures exploiters do not benefit from that silence.

I urge you to support HB 4157.

Thank you for your time and consideration.