



End Abusive Litigation

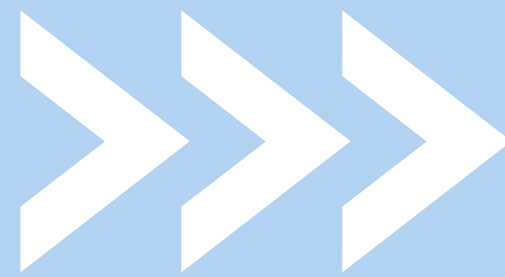
We can prevent abusers from weaponizing our justice system



Abusive Litigation Act S-604 (Sen. Euer) H-5883 (Rep. Kazarian)

WHAT IS ABUSIVE LITIGATION?

Using the courts to harass a victim who is free from the relationship with multiple and frivolous legal claims to further harm and control the victim.



Some abusers keep dragging a victim back to court with baseless claims to maintain control and contact, retaliate, coerce, intimidate, and harm a victim mentally, emotionally, and financially.

The Abusive Litigation Act offers protections to survivors and our court system

How abusers use the court system to target victims:

- ✓ To maintain power and control - will not let the victim move on with their lives.
- ✓ To retaliate against, impoverish, and harass victims for leaving, seeking revenge and harm.
- ✓ To maintain contact with the victim - another form of stalking by using the court system to repeatedly force the victim to be in their presence.

Why Abusive Litigation is harmful:

- ✓ Gives the abuser a way to continue violence after a relationship has ended.
- ✓ Causes distress and harm to the victim who wants to live free from abuse.
- ✓ Wastes the time and resources of Rhode Island judges and court staff.
- ✓ Weaponizes, manipulates and abuses our justice system.





Passing this bill would provide a solution to stop abusers from misusing the court system

Judges will have options when they determine abusive litigation is occurring. Judges will be able to:

- Issue an Order Restricting Abusive Litigation.
- Impose prefiling restrictions for a period of time.
- Award attorneys' fees and costs of responding to the abusive litigation.
- Award other costs of the abusive litigation, including court costs, lost wages and transportation costs for trips to the courthouse, and costs of childcare as a result of defending the litigation.
- Compensate victims who lose work or economic resources due to the abusive litigation.

An Order Restricting Abusive Litigation is a form of relief for survivors when the court finds that the other party committed abuse, stalking or assault.

It does not close off the courts to anyone and the party would still maintain their right to access to the courts.

Harms of Abusive Litigation

Financial loss from missing work to attend court. Incurring losses for court and attorney fees, childcare, and transportation costs for court dates.

Mental and emotional stress from having to be in contact with the abuser or their attorney. Facing repeated baseless attacks and threats.

Loss of work or inability to keep consistent work due to required court appearances. This infringes on a victim's economic freedom and ability to provide for themselves.

"If this legislation passed, I wouldn't have to continue to live in fear. Other survivors wouldn't have to put their lives on hold and spend thousands of dollars on meritless cases meant to exploit the legal system to punish them."

-SOAR Member

