

House Committee on Judiciary
Support SB766
May 14, 2021

Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Peace at Home Advocacy Center, we would encourage the support of SB766 which is a technical fix to the SAPO statute. Since 2015 I have worked daily with survivors of sexual violence and seen the impacts that a lack of privacy or confidentiality can have on a survivor. When survivors are seeking safety from the violence they have experienced it is crucial to ensure that service providers and those who work within the legal system are able to offer confidentiality for those we are working to protect.

I do not believe it is ever appropriate to share or post information about a survivor's traumatic experience for public view even if it is with the goal of serving a protective order. As much as is possible, we should be allowing survivors to share their story in a way that feels safe and empowering for them instead of further putting them at risk. Many survivors have to deal with the ongoing effects of a traumatic experience and having the perpetrator of violence find them or find out more information about them is an overwhelming fear that they have to carry.

SAPO's can be a powerful tool for survivors of violence to use promote their safety as well as the safety of those they live with. It is critical that we continue to make positive changes to the SAPO process such as the technical fixes of SB766 to ensure that SAPO's remain a safety measure that is beneficial and not harmful to survivors.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Rodriguez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicole Rodriguez

Sexual Assault Services Director

Peace at Home Advocacy Center