

HOUSE No. 4018

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Tram T. Nguyen

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act protecting assault survivors.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>1/11/2025</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>4/14/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 4018

By Representative Nguyen of Andover, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4018) of
Tram T. Nguyen relative to assault survivors. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act protecting assault survivors.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority
of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 231 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 91B the
2 following section:-

3 Section 91C. (a) A person shall not, in an action for slander or libel, be held liable in
4 damages for any communication made, without malice, regarding an incident in which they were
5 the victim of sexual assault, harassment or discrimination.

6 (b) A prevailing defendant in any slander or libel action brought against that defendant
7 for making a communication to which subsection (a) applies shall be entitled to reasonable
8 attorney's fees and costs, plus treble damages for any harm caused to them by the defamation
9 action against them, in addition to any other relief permitted by law.

10 (c) This section shall only apply to an individual who has, or at any time had, a
11 reasonable basis to file a complaint of sexual assault, harassment or discrimination, whether or
12 not the complaint was actually filed.