

To safeguard their physical safety, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment and stalking are often forced to quickly relocate to a safe and confidential location.

However, many victims in rental properties simply cannot afford to move due to the financial costs of breaking a lease early. **Given the few housing protections afforded to victims in SC, being bound to a lease agreement could mean the difference between staying with or leaving an abusive partner or effectively hiding from a stalker.**

Currently, 33 other states allow victims of interpersonal violence to terminate their leases early without financial penalty.

For years, SCCADVASA's 22¹ Member Organizations have advocated for the passage of early lease termination statute as a critical lifeline for survivors. **Currently, victims are left to plead with their landlords to allow voluntary early lease termination. This is often impossible, especially with larger corporate landlords whose property managers lack the necessary authority.**

Extending early lease termination rights to survivors will allow the victims the flexibility they need to quickly and affordably relocate to safe housing.

How Can You Stand With Survivors?

- **Contact your legislators** to encourage their support of H.4158 and let them know why these protections are important for the safety of survivors.
- **Subscribe to SCCADVASA's newsletter** to receive the latest legislative updates.
- **Visit SCCADVASA's Policy Center** to learn more about legislation impacting the lives of survivors and victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

About the Bill

H. 4158 would:

- Create a process by which victims of domestic violence or sexual assault may terminate a lease.
- Describe the documentation needed to qualify for relief.

[1] National Housing Law Project, [Housing Rights of Domestic Violence Survivors: A State and Local Law Compendium](#), 2017; see also WomensLaw.org