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 22 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.

**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.