



## STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – REP. STONEBACK

JUNE 21, 2022

It's truly unfortunate that my political opponent has chosen to run a campaign based on misinformation and deceptive, sensationalized attacks. Since he has littered our mailboxes with false accusations and misinformation, I feel that clarification is in order, and I am making this statement for those seeking an explanation.

My opponent and the right-wing donors behind him are terrified of having a strong progressive voice representing our community, so they're lying about my strong record of fighting for women. I've fought to prioritize the rights of survivors and women at every opportunity. In fact, last year I passed three bills to help survivors of domestic violence, and this year I introduced a bill to ban NDAs in cases of sexual assault, sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation in the workplace to hold sexual abusers accountable and prevent abusive cultures in the workplace. I fought to repeal the last anti-abortion law in Illinois. I am proud to be the first woman to represent our district and will always stand up for the rights of women.

Because my opponent can't be honest about how his campaign is funded by NRA allies, he's even decided to lie about my record of fighting for gun safety. I have worked to prevent gun violence for nearly a decade, founding [an Illinois nonprofit](#) to reduce gun violence after the Sandy Hook school shooting. Long before I was elected, I helped pass assault weapons bans in [Skokie](#), [Evanston](#), and Morton Grove, was instrumental in stopping a large gun shop and range from locating near Niles West High School, and helped pass landmark legislation in Springfield.

In my first year as a legislator, I wrote, introduced and passed a major bill to strengthen Illinois' red flag law—the Firearms Restraining Order—to prevent mass shootings, hate crimes, domestic-violence related homicides, as well as firearm suicides by closing loopholes in the original law and educating law enforcement and the public on its use. Governor Pritzker [signed my bill into law](#) last August. You can see recent news coverage of my work to reduce gun violence on my [webpage](#).

I have been fighting for background checks requiring mandatory fingerprinting for FOID cards for years, and a bill I championed [passed the Illinois House](#) in May 2021. When a watered-down version of this bill—backed by the gun lobby—allowed for voluntary fingerprints instead of mandatory fingerprinting for background checks, I stood up for the stronger bill by abstaining from voting. As I expected, when the weaker bill passed, it undermined the stronger bill. I am continuing to fight for mandatory fingerprinting and have filed my own bill – HB 5535 – with this critical measure.

I ask that you consider whether it makes any sense that someone who has a long and documented record of fighting for the rights of women and to reduce gun violence would do anything against women or against preventing gun violence. I also ask you to consider the type of candidate who would cynically and dishonestly twist the truth in this manner for political gain. Unfortunately, because my opponent cannot honestly run on his own record, he is trying to misrepresent mine.

I trust that voters will see through the shallow, deceptive, and oversimplified narratives that are meant to smear me and my reputation. It has been an honor to represent our district, and I have done so with honesty and integrity. I ask you to stand with me for the truth and reject the offensive and disingenuous attack mailers you have received from my opponent and his supporters.