

Attn: Mayor Steve Adler & Council Members

Re: Resolution to support a Trauma Recovery Center in Austin

Dear Mayor Adler & Council Members

My name is Kristen Lenau and I am writing to you from the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault. TAASA is the statewide coalition of sexual assault programs, also known as rape crisis centers. Our work encompasses statewide policy & advocacy, program support and prevention work for adult survivors of sexual assault and the agencies that serve them. Today we are writing in support of agenda item #61 for the City Council meeting on March 24th.

Through our work with rape crisis centers statewide, we are aware of how acute the mental health capacity crisis is in our state. During FY21, our centers had an average waitlist time of 6.8 weeks for individual counseling for survivors of domestic & sexual violence. We are in support of this resolution to examine the feasibility of starting a trauma recovery center in Austin as it will help improve access to care for survivors as soon as they need it, not weeks or months later. This kind of care should be available to all victims of violence regardless of their ability to pay, immigration status, religious beliefs, gender identity or engagement with law enforcement.

We are happy to answer any further questions you may have, and I have listed my contact information below.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

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