You are welcome to use the following text to contact your state legislator via e-mail, letter or using the information in a phone call or meeting. It is helpful, but not necessary, to include personal information about your experience with stalking as a victim, friend, or caregiver.

If you need additional assistance contacting your state legislature to promote strengthening the stalking laws in your state, please send an e-mail to info@unfollowme.com

Millions of stalking victims are never heard because of ineffective laws and lack of law enforcement training. An estimated 13.5 million people experience stalking per year[[1]](#footnote-1), yet only 16% will have a report filed by law enforcement[[2]](#footnote-2) resulting in 1.2% of perpetrators getting arrested with a 12% conviction rate[[3]](#footnote-3). Essentially, only **0.1% of stalking incidents result in a conviction.** Even so, there exists a high recidivism rate of stalking perpetrators[[4]](#footnote-4).

Of those convicted, legal sanctions alone are not effective in addressing stalking behavior, as noted by the high recidivism rate of perpetrators[[5]](#footnote-5). Mandating a psychological evaluation to identify the case of the behavior and resulting counseling can help address the fundamental problem(s) driving a stalker. In the absence of treatment, it is likely the behavior towards the current victim and/or a new victim will persist.

You can help by strengthening our stalking laws! Consider introducing legislation to increase criminal penalties for stalking and mandating psychological evaluations and treatment to reduce recidivism.

1. Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., & Kresnow, M. (2022). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): *2016/2017 Report on Stalking*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease control and Prevention. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Morgan, R.E., & Truman, J.L. (2022). *Stalking Victimization, 2019*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Baum, K., Catalano, S., & Rand, M. (2009). *Stalking Victimization in the United States*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Mohandie, K., Meloy, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). *The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers*. Journal of Forensic Sciences, 51(1): 147-155. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Mohandie, K., Meloy, J.R., McGowan, M.G., & Williams, J. (2006). *The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers*. Journal of Forensic Sciences, 51(1): 147-155. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)