

February 17, 2024 – Written Testimony on HF 3599

As a victim of sexual assault, I have gone through many different processes and systems with my attacker. While each of these situations has brought me an enormous amount of stress and retraumatization, I have chosen to participate fully throughout it all to help keep not only myself safe, but other past and potential victims.

Discovering that my rapist was able to have his risk level lowered without my knowledge or input was devastating. Many sex offenders are convicted of a small percentage of their actual crimes due to plea deals or other factors, and that is the case for my attacker as well. Being able to have had the chance to provide my experience and perspective as a victim would have helped me to at least feel confident that the committee who reassigned him got a fuller picture of what this man has done and what he is capable of.

Instead, his risk level was lowered in a way that I feel did not take into account his actual risk. I don't know what was said during that meeting, and I will never get to know. They never got to hear from myself or from his other victims about the level of sadistic violence that we were subjected to, or how we have all seen him manipulate the people around him - things that may have been mentioned, but are likely nowhere near as impactful when not coming from the people who were directly harmed. This is far from the first time the system has failed me as a victim, but this is a rare situation where there is an actual fix that can be made in state legislation. I truly do hope that we can move forward with allowing victims to participate and be notified.

It is not easy for survivors to participate in these types of things. Even getting a basic Haven notification is extremely stressful. I firmly believe that any victim who has chosen to sign themselves up for this type of information deserves to be notified about their offender attempting to receive less supervision, and they deserve the opportunity to speak out about how that will impact them.

Thank you very much for your time,

Abby Honold

