

February 16, 2017

Kansas Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Rick Wilborn, Chair

Re: 2017 Senate Bill 101: Amending the protection from abuse act and protection from stalking act to establish the protection from stalking or sexual assault act.

Survivor Impact Testimony
In Support of SB101

Hello Chair Wilborn and Members of the Committee,

My name is Katie Pratt and I am a sexual assault survivor. Prior to being assaulted on July 4th, 2016 my knowledge of protection from abuse orders was very limited. The day following my assault I went to the court house to get an order of protection. I was astonished to find that the sexual assault itself didn't warrant receiving the order of protection.

Instead I was told that I would have to apply for a "No Stalking" order and that you must have two separate incidents to even fill out the application. I was not stalked. I was raped in my home. In the place where I should be able to feel the utmost safety, and then to be told I may not be granted this order to be legally protected was extremely hurtful and dangerous. I had just gone through the worst night of my life and it made me feel like my assault wasn't being taken seriously since it wasn't being labeled for what truly happened.

After speaking with the advocate in the DA's office I was allowed to fill out the application since he had called me after the assault. I was later granted the "no stalking" order, not because he raped me but because he called me the next day.

Men and women are sexually assaulted every day and essentially made to feel that they don't deserve to be protected because the assault alone doesn't meet criteria for the order of protection. I urge you to change this law so that no man or woman who is sexually assaulted will be made to feel that they aren't worth being protected for what happened to them. Sexual assault should be labeled as such, it is demeaning to survivors to not acknowledge the pain and suffering that has been endured when they are sexually assaulted.

I strongly voice support for Senate Bill 101 to amend the current law in order to establish the Protection from Stalking or Sexual Assault Act.

Thank you,

Katie Pratt