

Testimony

On April 11, 2013, when the Medina SPCA came and took my horses for alleged neglect, I was in shock. My husband (now ex) was out of town for work and unable to get home that day. After 10 hours in the rain and cold, watching them take my horses, put them on trailers (many of which had never been loaded), watched my horses get hurt by their “helpers”, and listened to my daughter cry when she had to load her own pony onto a trailer because the “helpers” wouldn’t do it, I was stunned and numb.

When the SPCA officers came up, told me I would pay tens of thousands of dollars to them to get my horses back, threatened to call Child Services to have my children taken away, told me I would be prosecuted and sent to prison for years (and I had four children from ages 2 to 16 at the time), I signed whatever they put in front of me. I had not done anything wrong. But threats—veiled and spoken—and the fear of losing my children and my freedom made me sign it.

I had not had time to hire a lawyer or get advice. I reacted. And no one should be forced to be put in that situation. I suffered from and was diagnosed with PTSD from the incident, and my life was irrevocably changed. After 22 years, because of the stress in our lives, Doug Wilfred and I ended our marriage. I lost my house. My family and I were threatened by anonymous people online. I changed my name because of the online postings about “Tori Wilfred” and how horrible I was.

Making non-prosecution agreements more strictly governed by the laws of the state would save others from having to deal with the stress and destruction that I endured. I fully support and agree with House Bill 147.

Sincerely,

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