

Char Hill  
Proponent Testimony- HB497  
House Community and Family Advancement Committee

Chairman Ginter, Vice Chair LaTourette, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Community and Family Advancement Committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify today in favor of House Bill 497

It was evening, December 6, 2015 sitting in the comfort of my home when I received a text message of myself, nude. I was horrified. I was deeply humiliated. And emotionally damaged.

It was a forwarded image meant for shock value from my ex-boyfriend's buddy. My ex was sending my photo without my consent to his friends, his coworkers, his basketball team and a friend of mine who is also a pastor. My ex also held it over my head that he was going to paper the vehicles in my church parking lot with my nude image. I had to tell the church and meet with the security team in which they kept a heavy look out. I was mortified.

I immediately went to the police and was treated like it was my fault. I was told there was nothing they could do. A few attorneys along with Marion City prosecutor said "I know these 2 men are pigs but there is no law against distributing nude photo's in the state of Ohio". I was sick to my stomach. I was persistent to be heard and went back to the police station several times. I just so happened to get connected with a female officer who took me seriously. Sadly, the only retribution I could sustain was a telecommunications charge and a civil protection order. A very little punishment for sending me into a horrifying downward spiral into a mental health relapse hell.

I endured a severe recurrent episode of Major Depressive Disorder, Generalized Anxiety Disorder and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. With ongoing (but without current intent) suicidal tendencies.

I knew I had to get help when the thought of death was a peaceful thought, a release, a sigh of letting go. Being with Jesus sounded immensely more comforting than staying here with worldly people. My urge to fight outweighed my fighting capabilities. I'm too exhausted to continue to fight. I checked myself into partial hospitalization where I spent over 4 months trying to make sense of it all.

During my 4 month stint at Marion General Hospital Partial Hospitalization Program I endured what I describe as a "out of body" relapse. I had made it through the program

and was now in relapse prevention. I was dealing with months of ongoing court issues that pertained to pressing criminal charges on the offender. I was triggered every time I had a court appearance, whether the perpetrator was present or not, or meeting with any agency that was helping me pursue justice. I walked in to relapse prevention somber, empty handed and feeling depleted. With tears running down my face I told the counselors someone was going to die. Either me, the coward of a man who did this to me or both. My body was sitting in the chair but the words coming out of my mouth were that of a stranger and inaudible. I had so much confusion and noise in my head. I can see the counselors looking at each other with great concern but I didn't understand why. What was I saying that was so fearful? I vaguely remember them whispering to me if I was willing to surrender my weapon to someone trustworthy that would safely lock it away from me. Somewhere between protecting myself and my household, became a very scary idealization of permanently ending the nightmare I was living. I am very thankful I was in a safe place with trained professionals to defuse a potentially horrific situation and immediately took appropriate action which placed me back into PHP for another month.

This heinous act of Revenge Porn has to stop. These monsters need to be held accountable for their actions. My photo was taken out of trust, loyalty and love. I am a beautiful woman inside and out. I should not be shamed for feeling attractive or being sexual. And it is not ok to share my intimate photo without my consent, period.

Thank you again for allowing me to tell my story, and I ask for your full support behind House Bill 497.