

3/25/17

Chairman Manning, Vice-Chair Rezabek, Ranking Member Johnson and members of the House Criminal Justice committee. Thank you for allowing me to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 96.

On March 24, 2016 I was the 10<sup>th</sup> known victim of a serial groper. This serial groper had been released from jail for 5 days after serving a 6 month sentence for serial groping. I was working on my lap top in Saluna Café, a coffee shop in Grant Medical Center in between inservices. I would like to call out “10<sup>th</sup> known victim” as there is a process which takes time, energy and courage to push to have the crime go to trial. I’m positive that this happened to many more women who did not come forward. I would like to read my victim statement for the testimony which was read in the trial against the groper:

Victim 3/28/16

Right after it happened, I panicked and frantically gathered up all of my stuff. I stared at a group of four ladies next to me at a table until one asked if I needed something. I told them what happened. One lady went to get security. I started sobbing like a baby. I felt so childish for how much I was crying (as I'm not much of a crier) and I couldn't stop crying. My customer came up that I had met only one time before. I was in tears while she was greeting me and had to tell her what happened. So awkward. As I got home and talked to my husband I was heavy with emotion and confused why I was so upset as I had been in many bars in my 20s where someone grabbed my behind. But, not like this. This was creepy. This was planned. He sat there next to me and I continue to wonder what was going through his head. How long had he been planning to touch me? How long was he touching my clothes or how long was he just barely touching me and I didn't feel it? I zone out while on my lap top working...tunnel vision and wasn't paying attention to him.

Later that day, I did not want to be in any room by myself. I was panicked, on edge and freaked out to say the least. I'm new with my job and since I had to tell the police who I worked for I had to tell my boss who had to tell her boss and HR. Embarrassing! The day after I called the therapy hotline through work. I could barely do it without crying. Luckily my husband had the day off as well. I worked a little in the morning and started sobbing in the afternoon on and off just laying in bed and sobbing.

It's a week and a half later. I'm still freaked out and feel like I continually have to look over my shoulder. I've gone back in forth in my mind on if I wanted to pursue the case wanting to put it behind me. But, then I try to be strong so that **No one** else has to go through this...feeling like a victim. It's thinking of my little daughter that keeps me going. Because every woman out there is a daughter to some parents who would be devastated if they knew this happened to their little girl. So, I'm pressing forward with this matter for all the daughters out there. I have only told my best friend and husband in my personal life. I haven't told my family not even my mother and definitely not my father. My sisters would

be so worried with panic, they wouldn't know what to do as I the youngest girl and they are overprotective. My brother is younger and one of the largest men I know 6'5" and has weighed up to 275lbs. He would definitely lose his #%^\* over this not sure what he would do. How someone I don't know could grope me for a few seconds and make me completely paranoid, torn down and weakened.

A man stared at me too long in a hallway where I was working and I became angry wondering what was wrong with him? Are there more people in the world like this? I've never had anything this odd happen before in my 39 years.

I've called hospitals where I work to see who has valet or who has security to come meet me at my car. I've increased a level of security in my personal life that I've never had to do before.

Victim April 5th

I went on a walk tonight to try and clear my brain. While I had on my headphones, I jumped at loud noises. I panicked a few times and looked frantically over my shoulder looking to see if someone was behind me. I text my best friend and let her know a little more on the situation. Then I start to cry again. And start to feel like a victim again.

**Thank You Chairman Manning, Vice-Chair Rezabek, Ranking Member Johnson and members of the House Criminal Justice committee for listening to my testimony.**