

## Aisha M. Fraser Testimony

I did not know Aisha personally but both of my boys go to Shaker schools and both of them have been studying in Woodbury, where she taught. Aisha is special to me because she is a teacher (like me) in what I consider "my" school. I know parents and children who studied in Aisha's class in previous years and who were in her class this year. My boys also went to Mercer, where Aisha's younger daughter goes and where I saw her quite often in the past years. Aisha was a mother, like me, in my town and school, so I felt compelled to go to her memorial service. What I learned about Aisha during the two-hour testimony of her family, friends, teachers, colleagues, community members, and sorority sisters blew my mind. If this powerful, well-connected, well-educated, socially conscientious and involved woman, who even had a rich uncle, and who had ample professional advice and legal help, could not protect herself and her small daughters, *there is nobody in this country who can!* There is something profoundly wrong with our society and Aisha's case is the solid proof of the fact that our system of protecting victims of domestic violence *does not work!*

What then can we, as a society, do to protect victims in these situations? I think Aisha's Law is the first step in the direction of change that should be profound and that should involve not only how we protect the victims, but also how we work with the violators. Indeed, start at least *talking* to the victims and taking their words and injured bodies as serious evidence, evidence that is sufficient to demand the strictest punishment or serious medical treatment of the perpetrator and serious protection for the victims! One incident of violence is enough, quite, quite enough! What right does our society have to wait for the second violent incident?!

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