



Senate Judiciary  
Committee

Witness Form

Today's Date 4/15/24

Name: Leanna Rocheleau

Address: 4953 Raccoon Run Road

Johnstown, Ohio 43231

Telephone: 614-571-1778

Organization Representing: Self

Testifying on Bill Number: 109

Testimony:  Verbal  Written  Both

Testifying As:  Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist?  Yes  No

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# THE OHIO SENATE

## Media Request Form

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I hereby request permission to record your committee.

Leanna Rochdeau

Requestor Name

Self

Organization

4/15/24

Request Date

614-571-1778

Phone Number

Are you (or your organization) a member of the Ohio Legislative Correspondents' Association or the Radio and Television Correspondents' Association?

Yes

No

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Senate Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

Request Approved?

Yes

No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair's Signature

## Senate Speech

My name is Leanna Rocheleau, I'm a 37 year old wife and mother to 2 beautiful kids. I own a small pet business here in grandview. I also am the founder of a nonprofit organization that does job training and supportive employment for individuals with disabilities.

On August 17th 2021 I was sexually assaulted by a massage therapist Daniel Sharfal at the grand resort hotel and spa in Warren Ohio and my life was forever altered.

What you don't realize is I'm losing myself bit by bit every day and no one even knows. I put on a face and continue on so that nobody worries. I stop talking about it because it feels like a burden that I alone should carry. I stay awake at night to grieve in the shadows. I lose precious moments with my kids. I don't even know who I really am anymore. I yearn for my life before this. It was such a beautiful life.

It's been 967 days since I reported my assault and he still works there.

It will never be the same, nothing will ever be the same  
I just wanna go home  
But I am home

I thought I did everything I was supposed to.  
I told everyone I could think of managers, police, the medical board, the governor, state representatives, the news and 5 million people on the internet.

Who do I tell now?

I sit in the sand and watch my daughter joyfully playing in the waves near the shore, dashing between her impressive sandcastle and the sea with pure, innocent delight. In an instant, my joy morphed into fear as a troubling question surfaced: How do I protect her when I couldn't even protect myself?

What do I tell my daughter?  
How do you tell a little girl to believe in a system that won't believe her?

My therapist asked "How hard would you fight if this was your daughter..?"

All at once I ripped the tape off of my mouth, threw the heaviness off and drew my sword. I transformed from victim to survivor.  
What if that's the solution? To find healing through justice reform. To give my trauma purpose. To deeply comprehend the wrong and work towards making it better for my kids.  
That is my mission now.  
I won't let them forget me.

I reported my assault on August 20th 2021 to the Ohio state medical board. It took them a year and a half to begin the investigation and another year and a half to complete it. Three years is too long.

In that time. Statute of limitations ran out to go after him civilly. 13 other victims have come forward, one of which was as recently as Valentine's Day. He is currently under investigation again for sexual misconduct and he still has an active license. He is still assaulting women and the current system you have in place allows him to have a license while we all know he's still doing it and with no obligation to report it to the police.

The medical board needs reformed now. There needs to be an automatic suspension system in place pending investigations or this story will repeat. The medical board is in desperate need of trauma informed care training in order to stop calling these types of cases he said she said. Every sexual assault victim in America knows what we are up against and if we have that knowledge and still go forward with telling our truth and seeking justice. I suggest you at the very least listen.

The first trauma is the actual abuse. The second trauma is not having anyone there to support you.

Trauma is not just what happened. It's also about how much support you had when those things happened.

In order to be a good human you have to actively take part in what is right and just.

SB 109 is what starts us heading in that direction. Thank you for starting this conversation.