

Testimony of Alexandria Goddard for Senate Bill 237

Dear Honorable Members of Committee:

I was at the center of an Ohio rape case that went internationally viral. When townspeople began discussing the rape case and the high school that was involved on a public forum, one family of a student filed a defamation lawsuit against me and anonymous posters in an attempt to silence speech about the case. The suit would have qualified as a SLAPP suit in any jurisdiction that has such protections, and would have been dismissed on that basis, but we had to endure the court process and the duress of being a defendant. The longer the suit went on, the worse the harassment got. A quick dismissal under an anti-SLAPP statute would have been a godsend for me and the other defendants. Or better yet, with a good anti-SLAPP statute I probably wouldn't have been sued at all.