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Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 101
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

HB0211

Good afternoon, Chairman Clippinger, Vice-Chairwoman Atterbeary, and distinguished members of the committee. My name is Wrenn Heisler, and I am here today to tell you a story that has scarred my life, [REDACTED] lives, and most importantly [REDACTED] life.

You see, for the rest of her existence [REDACTED] will have a memory that she will not want. When she was only five years old, a man intentionally located her and a seven year old friend of hers with the purpose of masturbating in front of them. On a weekday in August, 2012, my husband and our friend, Carrie, had taken [REDACTED] to the pool in our neighborhood. That day, they were the only ones there other than the lifeguard, or so they thought. They sent the girls in to the bathroom to change into their bathing suits-- [REDACTED] was almost six, and her friend, [REDACTED] had just turned seven. They were, I later learned, being silly in the bathroom while changing-- giggling and "shaking their booties" as little girls do.

When they went back out to the pool, they jumped in and swam and played, just like they always did. The next day, however, [REDACTED] and I had a long car ride together driving up to Western Maryland to help set up for [REDACTED] and as we were driving along, she said, "Hey [REDACTED] I saw a man's penis at the pool yesterday."

At first, I thought she was just joking or talking about seeing something while swimming under water. But with further questioning, I figured out what had happened. "It was when [REDACTED] and I came out of the bathroom. He was just standing there itching. His penis must have been really itchy." I still wasn't sure, so I asked if she could see his actual penis or if he was scratching through his bathing suit. She said, "No, [REDACTED] he had his pants pulled partway down and he must have been really itchy." I curved my pointer finger and asked her if the penis looked like that, and then I straightened my pointer finger so that it was pointing straight out, and asked if it looked like that. When I straightened it, she said, "Oh, yeah, it looked just like that, and he was really itching."

So, there's [REDACTED] telling me that a man had masturbated in front of her and her friend.

Of course, we called the police, and the investigation began. As the investigation went on, more and more little girls in our neighborhood came forward with their stories of the weird man (the "pee pee man," as the kids started calling him) who would trap them when they were riding bikes and pull his penis out and start masturbating. If the girls rode away or turned around, he would ride out on the road to pass them (we have a bike path in our neighborhood) and get in front of them again, and do it again. Hearing all of these stories was awful.

In court, [REDACTED] both took the stand and testified against him. [REDACTED] had to do so without [REDACTED] being in the room because we were both involved in the case in other ways (I had told him not to sneak into the pool house earlier that summer, as I was the pool manager at that time). [REDACTED] sat on the stand alone and was cross-examined at that young age.

The sentencing was ridiculous, and that is why I am here with you today. Because the indecent exposure charge in Maryland is the same for public masturbation as it is for stopping to urinate on the side of the road, the judge gave him the maximum sentence, and that was 18 months with work release, which was of course reduced down to something like two months with work release. Therefore, basically, nothing happened to him. Further, because this was a misdemeanor, he is not on the sex-offender registry.

The only lucky thing that happened for us was that the Navy picked up the case because he was a GS-15 on Pax River Naval Air Station. After the JAG investigation, he apparently lost his clearance and moved.

Here's the problem with that: it is despicable that Maryland could not do anything to flag or effectively sentence a man that was trapping little girls and exposing himself to them. Now, wherever he is, he is not on a sex-offender list, and he is probably still doing the same thing to other little girls in his new neighborhood. He was not placed in any kind of mandatory therapy, he basically spent no time in jail, and he is not registered so that future neighbors could be aware of his twisted nature.

I am here to ask you to act. Please officially strengthen the sentencing for this offense.