

To the esteemed house:

My regards to the house. I wish I could be there in person today to testify before you, but due to major surgery I am unavailable and unable to travel. Therefore I am writing to you in regards to the house bill 1497 you have before you.

I am in strong support of passing house bill 1497. I am the proud "Nana" of [REDACTED], the child whom this bill has inspired. My grandson is only 12 years old and has autism. He was severely abused and drugged by Mr. Jason Cochrane while on a camping trip. Mr. Cochrane and I HAD been best friends for over 30 years. He WAS family. Mr. Cochrane meticulously planned out the rape and abuse he put my grandson through. I asked you if you truly believe three years and a misdemeanor charge are appropriate for someone who premeditatedly put [REDACTED] an innocent child at risk for HIV, AIDS, or any other sexually transmitted disease. In my eyes no one has the right to play God with someone else's life. Mr. Cochrane has knowingly been HIV positive for many years. He has taken on the wrong family much less abused the wrong child!!!!!! What gave him the right to rape, molest, abuse, and drug an innocent child who trusted him? Who is he to put such a young life in parel??? He is an innocent 12 year old with special needs who considered him an uncle?? This sweet CHILD now faces a life of unknown, tests, PTSD, anger and a slew of other repercussions from these occurrences. How is three years any punishment when [REDACTED] will be plagued by all this baggage for the remainder of his life? He is still very young and naive, it will take more than three lousy years for him to begin to heal. These animals who knowingly putting others at high risk for contracting HIV, AIDS or any other sexually transmitted disease deserve so much more than a mere slap on the wrist and a misdemeanor charge. Personally I believe he and others like him should face a life sentence for trying to take others lives. I know and understand we have to remain "fair" in our society, so I am asking you to please pass this amazing bill and make a difference in the lives of those who (God forbid) have been and will be abused and exposed to a life of unknowns have a much harder penalty for their disgusting actions. No one especially an innocent child should be forced to live with and relive the trauma they experienced every time they need blood work, or worse....treatment. Please make the punishment harsher and longer so that these CRIMINALS have their lives altered just as the have their victims. I look forward to helping get this bill passed and hopefully taking similar ones to the federal level. I thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Michelle L. Smith

Nana of [REDACTED]!!!