

Matthew Penberg Testimony

My name is Matthew Penberg and I am writing to testify in support of virtual access. I have been through the court system and have often felt pain and fear as others talk about my fate and I do not fully understand what is happening. I feel the same about this testimony. Many people testifying against this probably do not know people like me who have been directly impacted.

I feel if society knew the way the accused are treated in court they would be angry. For instance, once I was waiting in court for my trial and there was a cop there to testify against a girl for shoplifting a t-shirt. For some reason, she did not show up to court so then the judge issued a warrant for her arrest. I don't think the people want teenage girls put in cages for stealing ten-dollar t-shirts. Plus all the money it costs to apprehend her and cage her. Now, this is just one small example out of many but I feel the more eyes watching an event the less likely those in charge will be to do something irrational or even immoral.

I have been through the court system many times and I don't like the way they treat me and others. Because when I am arrested I want my case in the video feed being watched as well. Why would anyone be against letting a court case be viewed even cops have to wear cameras now in most places. If the cops can be recorded why not the courtroom?

This is about transparency. Injustice often happens in empty courtrooms and having people able to watch court would have made me more comfortable as I was put into the court system.

