

Good afternoon, Chairman Clippinger, Vice-Chair Moon, and distinguished members of the committee. My name is Wrenn Heisler, and I am here today because the justice system in Maryland has failed my family.

You see, for the rest of her existence, my beautiful daughter 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. This act took place in the clubhouse of our community pool and, when we finally figured out what had happened, we learned that this man actually did this in front of little girls all over our neighborhood.

Ultimately, my daughter and her friend both took the stand and testified against him. My daughter had to do so without my husband or myself being in the room because we were both involved in the case in other ways. My child sat on the stand alone and was aggressively 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 reduced down to something like thirty days with work release. Therefore, basically, nothing happened to him. Further, because this was a misdemeanor, he is not on the sex-offender registry.

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 to masturbate in front of them. He was not placed in any kind of mandatory therapy. He basically spent no time in jail. And worst, he is not registered so that future neighbors can be aware of his twisted nature.

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