

February 3, 2023

Dear Chairman Clippinger, Vice-Chair Moon, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am submitting testimony today for the fourth time on this bill, and I sincerely hope that we have gotten this piece of legislation to the point where this will be the last time I have to submit testimony. I want to thank you for hearing the bill again, and for taking this issue seriously, as it has affected my life, my child's life, and the lives of so many others around the state.

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 had intentionally done this in front of little girls all over our neighborhood. Our kids were so young that they didn't even have the language or knowledge to explain it to us.

Ultimately, my daughter and her friend both took the stand and testified against their perpetrator, and so did several of our neighbors' daughters. At six years old (she had a birthday between the incident and the trial), my daughter had to do so without my husband or myself in the courtroom because we were both also witnesses in the case. My child sat on the stand alone and was aggressively cross-examined at that young age. She held her own, remaining very clear about what had happened, and even correcting the attorney when he tried to trap her, stating things like, "I already told you two times— he was over there" (pointing at a drawing of the room).

In the end, the sentencing was simply ridiculous, and that is why I am submitting testimony again. 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 said she was giving him the maximum sentence she could, 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 absolutely disgraceful that Maryland could not do anything to flag or effectively sentence a man who was trapping little girls in order 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 of all, he is not registered so that his 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.

Very Sincerely,

Wrenn Heisler
Lexington Park, Maryland