

Good afternoon Chairmen and Members of the Committee. My name is Jennifer Johnson and I am speaking on behalf of my daughter Rylee who at the age of eighteen was a victim of sexual assault by her pediatrician.

Rylee was a patient of the pediatrician since she was one week old and sought his mentorship in her pursuit to become a Physician Assistant. When Rylee developed anxiety she sought his advice and treatment as she felt comfortable and trusted him.

On April 26, 2019 Rylee was scheduled for a quick prescription check however I was unable to attend with her.

Unfortunately, the appointment lasted over an hour and unbeknownst to Rylee all the staff were sent home for the day leaving Rylee and the doctor alone in the office. The appointment started routinely with vital checks and questions about how the prescription was making her feel and then the doctor told Rylee to lay down on the examination table. Rylee was uncomfortable and did not expect this and she started to experience an anxiety attack. The doctor put his ungloved hands in her pants and touched her lower abdomen and then lower to her vagina where he stood over her and digitally penetrated her. The assault lasted 2-5 minutes during which time Rylee was hysterically crying, choking and hyperventilating. He only stopped assaulting her because Rylee told him she couldn't breathe.

Rylee never at any point gave the pediatrician consent nor did she deserve to be sexually assaulted.

During the trial the judge found Rylee extremely credible but could only find the pediatrician guilty on 2nd Degree Assault and 4th Degree Sex Offense. The judge found the doctor not guilty of 2nd Degree Rape because under Maryland law in order to find guilt there needed to be proof of actual force.

I am here because Rylee is no longer mentally able to discuss the trauma she experienced. As she now has fear of going to doctor's offices and of doctors, Rylee is no longer pursuing a career in the medical field and struggles with panic and anxiety attacks on a daily basis.

Please remove the force aspect and codified consent and please vote favorably for SB758 to pass to give my daughter and other rape victims hope for justice in the future.

Thank you.