

Chair Bynum and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2400. My name is Tyler Miller. I am the ongoing victim of a failed system. A system that was supposed to protect me. In December 2015, I was on a school sponsored Varsity Basketball Trip with Sprague High School to San Diego California to play in the Surf and Turf Tournament. 4 of my closest teammates pinned me down while 5 watched me struggle, and attempted to sodomize me with a hotel tv remote. I felt fear, abandonment, embarrassment, and intimidation.

I will never forget how scared I was when the Salem Police showed up on my doorstep asking me to give my statement about the incident that has, to this day, changed the trajectory of my life. You see I did not report the incident to the police. The incident was reported to the police by someone else. Police on my doorstep took me by total surprise. But now, I had to cooperate.

As a Junior in high school, I never anticipated I would be in the situation of recalling details of an attack my friends and teammates conspired on and acted upon. My junior year of basketball had just started and I was so nervous about how these kids were going to react when the police showed up on their doorsteps to get their statements. So many questions passed through my mind:

- How were my teammates going to react to this?
- How were we going to play together on the court after they find out that police were involved now.
- Would my coach be mad?
- What are the rest of my friends, fellow students and teachers going to think about this?

It was right after I gave my statement to police that they asked me that very pivotal question as to if I wanted to pursue criminal charges against the perpetrators. At the time, I did not want to see these kids criminally pursued as I was afraid and for many reasons, just didn't want to risk further harassment, embarrassment or disruption to my world. I really just wanted them to stop their behaviors and have the opportunity to play basketball in an environment and on a team that fostered harmony. Besides, at the time I had complete faith the school would do justice and impose change that would both assert disciplinary actions and drive change in process that would protect me, my brother and future victims of grievous activity. The police completed their investigation and, as far as I understand it, declined to bring charges.

Then the school launched their investigation once the police investigation was closed. The school's investigation dragged on for months without any safety plans for me or my brother, ultimately forcing my brother and I into a school transfer situation for our safety and mental well-being. For four months, the school proceeded to conduct their investigation which finally culminated in a 4-sentence long email saying that my story was credible but containing absolutely no other relevant information about the outcome of the investigation or what would be done to protect me, leaving my family and I with more fears and questions than when we began.

Because the school did just a terrible job informing me of the findings, outcome, or even how I would be made safe in the aftermath of my report, my parents and I thought we would try to seek information elsewhere. Both me and my parents attempted several times to get our hands on a copy of the police report to no avail. The police department refused to release the report to me, claiming that it could not

be disclosed because I was a minor and the perpetrators – whose names I had given them – were also minors. They would not even provide me redacted copies, and neither the police nor the school would even give me copies of just my own statements. I, the victim, could not get a copy of my own police report, that I fully cooperated with and gave statements in to help in moving the school investigation along.

Had I had a copy of the police report, I may not be sitting in the position I am today, six years later, with no answers and no closure. The police report would have offered clarity to the investigation that I was at the center of years ago and would have possibly offered the school the needed information to assert appropriate disciplinary action needed to stop a culture that continued to fester in the Sprague High School Football and Basketball programs. Victims should have the right to their own statements and to review the investigation that was conducted on their behalf.

Thank you for time, and I ask you for your support of HB 2400, to advocate for victims to have the right to their own police report.