

Good afternoon Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Power, and Committee Members I appreciate the time you have given me today. My name is Jessica Garcia and I am Representative David Brock Smith's constituent that brought this bill to him. I'd like to share why I feel HB3174 (prohibit the public display of images of a person in a state of nudity) is important to me and other survivor's testimony's. I went thru a 2 week trial in a rural courtroom 2 years of court proceedings. Which means I would more than likely know the spectators in the courtroom. I feel showing spectators in the court my naked body parts is extremely humiliating and it is not giving survivors a fair trial. Both parties are to have a fair trial. However, this is intimidating a witness to its fullest and needs to change. There's a couple things I'd like to touch base on. First I barely had the strength to testify in front of my rapist let alone my community members, like a senior pastor, church members, random acquaintance, and "people I see at my local grocery store". They got to see my evidence. Poster boards of my vagina, torn breast, and bruised body. They got to hear my sexual preferences. To me I didn't give spectators consent to see my naked body nor did I want them to know how I like to have sex. The second issue I have is that many times I froze. I thought I don't want these people to know details of what happened to me. So, I almost omitted that information, because of the intimidation I felt. Both sides should be given a fair trial without witness intimidation. The information I almost omitted due to the pure humiliation could have let a sadistic rapist free. Now, my question is this: how many survivors froze, will freeze, and didn't/don't share because of the intimidation not of the rapist, but from the public. I feel one reason I hid in my house and gained 80 pounds in 2 years is because I was scared to see people who seen me naked. You might say that's an assumption and perception. which, is fair to assume, but in reality this is what did happen. I went to the grocery store for ice cream for my girls. I walked in and grabbed some produce to add to my cart. I look up and there is a man (stranger) to me, that was in the courtroom. He saw my vagina. I was red in embarrassment when he waved at me. I left my cart, turned around, and I started crying. I drove home. Walked in my home to my girls saying mom where's the ice cream? I say no ice cream tonight. They were upset, but too young for me to explain my humiliation. My question is what's the difference between a 17 1/2 year-old and a 18 year-old? I feel I may have disclosed more if I wasn't feeling like I was the zoo animal in a cage and everyone just starring at my naked body. I DID NOT GIVE CONCENT FOR ALL THOSE PEOPLE TO SEE MY NAKED, BRUISED, BEATEN BODY! My one thing I ask of you today is to understand I AM A MOTHER. HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF YOUR MOTHER WAS ON DISPLAY FOR HER COMMUNITY TO SEE..EVEN MORE THAN THAT...RAPE DOESN'T DISCRIMINATE AGE GENDER RELIGION OR CREED ... SO HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR FATHER'S, BROTHER, SON, GRANDSON'S PENIS, BRUISED BODY ON DISPLAY. DO YOU THINK THIS REALLY IS PROVIDING A FAIR TRIAL FOR THE SURVIVOR. A FAIR TRIAL IS FREE FROM WITNESS INTIMIDATION.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME I HOPE THIS SHARES MORE INFORMATION ON WHY THIS BILL SHOULD PASS.