

I was asked to write a statement in regards to the impact the Ramos appeal had on me. I was asked to keep it under 3 minutes, this may be a bit longer.

So let me just take a minute to put this into perspective for you. I was a little girl when I was molested by Wes Covington. It's been so hard for me to forget about that instance of my life, part of that is due to me still having to deal with this case. The things he did to me still scar me to this day. I'm still so traumatized by his actions, I'll get flash backs of him licking inside my ear or touching my nipples. I hear his voice saying "look at what you do to me" while looking down at his erect penis with a look in his eye insisting that I do something... these involuntary thoughts have my heart pounding through my chest and my head spinning in circles trying to snap myself out of it...

His first conviction in 2012 he was found guilty on 6 counts of sexual abuse just on me alone.

He was faced with 37 years in prison.

The Jury reached an 11 to 1 vote. And he was sentenced to 18 years in prison.

Fast forward to 2020. Now there's a new law that has passed making an 11/12 vote obsolete, the verdict must be unanimous.. that is what brought this case back up to the surface.

That 1 undecided vote has kept him from his full sentencing, and is now keeping my sisters and I scared and worried that our abuser will get off with a slap on the wrist.

At this point we all had to attend a hearing and write statements in addition to our original testimony to ensure he stays in prison. I believe once Wes appeared on the screen I recall him saying "oh wow, look! my fans are here" and by fans he meant his victims, my sisters and I. Our statements were read on our behalf by DA Bryan Brock. I didn't want Wes to hear my voice. I didn't even want to be there knowing that I'd have to see his face again. Now, we were all aware that if for any reason our proposal to keep him in custody with his original sentencing and bail had gotten denied, that his bail would be reduced as well as his sentencing, which would more than likely lead to him being released. So a lot was riding on our statements. We all couldn't have emphasized enough on the fact that if his bail got reduced he would in fact get the money and post bail. I even mentioned that he filed for appeal back in 2013 and again in 2018. And from my previous statement I quote "from his first appeal he was able to reduce his bail, resulting in his release. Later, that was revoked due to him having contact with a minor. He has worked his way out once, and with the knowledge he gained from that, he will more than likely use it to get his way again."

And with all of us standing here today, I believe that I have proven my point. He managed to find his way out again, and has realized that this time if he can just follow by the rules for a little bit longer he will remain under the radar. He will manipulate and fool people in order to get what he wants. That has been proven time and time again. Regardless on the amount of opportunity this man has been given by our so-called justice system, his class act of "good behavior" does not weigh out his crimes. How could it, how can you justify sexually assaulting numerous little girls.. No amount of time served will ever account for the trauma he has inflicted on us. He could spend the rest of his life in prison and all of us girls will still be here living with the what he did to us. He deserves every second of his life behind bars.

I stormed out of the court room upon hearing the judges verdict. I was at a loss for words, thought, feeling... just completely in shock that everything we endured and everything we had said was

completely disregarded. The judge even stated "that our story has been heard" but I don't think she was actually listening at all. What we feared could happen, did. She granted him bail reduction, he posted bail and got released... Exactly what we said he would do.

I'm honestly appalled that I'm even being asked to write about the impact this had on me as if everything else we've been through hasn't been enough... as if this will be enough to make a difference. There isn't a word that begins to describe how enraged, disgusted, hurt, and anxious the Ramos appeal had on me. I'm left in disbelief and feared for what is to come of this. As much as I want this to just be over and never brought up again, I want him to be serving his life in prison a lot more. As much as I want to grow from this and focus on my life and my kids, I will do whatever it takes to make sure that Wes Covington gets what he deserves. The same way he made sure that he got what he wanted from me and my sisters.

If 11 people in the jury can unequivocally reach the same verdict on a case such as this, he should have never been given any opportunity for a reduction of any sort. I speak on behalf of all the victims going through what I am forced to go through when I say that sexual abuse in any degree should not be given any opportunity for a retrial. I vote NO on SB 1511.