

February 3, 2022
Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing
Senate Bill 1511

Senator Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

My name is Steve Doell. I am President of Crime Victims United of Oregon, an organization that has advocated for crime victims for nearly 40 years. Our members are mostly victims of violent predatory crime.

I'm the father of Lisa Doell who was stalked by a violent 16 year old with a record and who was a stranger to her. He brutally murdered my daughter in 1992 using his car to run her down.

He was not on alcohol or drugs at the time he murdered her.

He was traveling on North Shore Road, which has a 20 MPH speed limit, between 40 and 45 MPH when he slammed into her. Lisa was returning from school, walking on the berm of the road as we taught her. His intent was evidence by the fact that there he left tire marks through people's lawns and flower beds after he ran her over. There were no skid marks.

Due to one jury holdout who ignored the overwhelming evidence of his guilt, he was convicted of manslaughter instead of murder on a non-unanimous 11-1 jury verdict. I'm attaching a statement from the jury foreman - please read it.

Was he guilty of murder? Let's examine some facts.

When he went to the home of his peer counselors from school right after he murdered Lisa he told them he carried out one of his fantasies- to see what it felt like to kill someone.

When he called his home to tell his parents he was going to be out for the evening the police were at his home. Why? Because Lisa's leg tore off the front license plate of the car and left his calling card on the street.

The police said they wanted to talk to him. They said you're a young man who's had a terrible accident. His reply?

"It wasn't an accident, I did it on purpose."

When he was finally apprehended later that evening, about four hours after he murdered Lisa he again made the statement:

"It wasn't an accident, I did it on purpose."

He was brought in to the Lake Oswego Police Department for questioning and was shown a list of scenarios on a whiteboard of what possibly occurred around 3:50 pm. on October 21, 1992:

- a) the girl ran out in front of your car,
- b) the sun temporarily blinded you,
- c) you looked down for something in your front seat,
- d) you didn't see the girl,
- e) it was intentional.

He said, I think you know which one it is. He said it was intentional and laughed.

He was found guilty under the law as were all of the criminals whose records you are about to wipe clean by telling the judges they shall vacate the conviction after the criminal shows by a preponderance of evidence, the lowest bar in the law, they were convicted on a non-unanimous jury verdict.

Ms. Kaplan cavalierly tells you how straightforward and simple this all is. It's not.

She says the District Attorneys can retry the cases and believe me will tell victims and the public to blame it on the DAs when that doesn't happen.

We know the DA offices don't have the financial resources or manpower to retry thousands of cases. Even if they did, they can't bring forward cases that are 15, 20, 30 and more years old- they are stale. Some witnesses in the cases have died and others memories are faded because of time. The judges, deputy DA's and defense attorneys who originally handled the cases are more likely than not no longer in the system and the case files are degraded.

So in conclusion what is this legislature saying to crime victims in Oregon if you make Ramos retroactive?

That rape? It didn't happen to you.

Your child was not sexually molested.

The felony assault that left you permanently damaged never happened.

That armed robbery in which a gun was held to your head and your life flashed in front of you never occurred.

Those manslaughters and criminally negligent homicides that took your beloved family members lives- did not happen.

And Andrew Whitaker did not murder Lisa Doell.

Criminals commit crimes. These are decisions, not mistakes as they are often characterized by some members of this body. The crime victims don't get a choice in the criminal's decision making process. They have no choice but to become part of the criminal's decision and act.

For the past seven years many in this legislature have treated criminals as crime victims and crime victims as collateral damage in the system and often treated victims like they don't even exist.

It's time for this to stop.

Take a long look in the mirror. Do you honestly want this to be your legacy?

Please vote no on SB 1511.

Statement From Jury Forman About Trial of Lisa Doell's Murderer

The following is a statement made during a Town Hall television program by the jury foreman, Bill Mason, in support of Measure 72 on October 14, 1999.

I sat on a murder jury 6 years ago and sat with 11 other people who were instructed by the courts to honestly weigh the facts and forget their own opinions and listen to the facts. And we sat and listened to facts for three weeks. We listened to the defendant say that they purposely killed somebody. We listened to the defendant's friends who had firsthand information that came from that defendant where he bragged about it, he wrote books where he talked about violently killing people and stalking people. This defendant stated clearly that he purposely murdered the person and we listened to that. We weren't allowed to talk about it. That's the system.

We went to deliberation and we talked for three days. We thought all of the jurors were obeying the rules, they were really honestly debating the facts and weighing them. We found in the end that there was one person that would have never, from day one, she had a fixation, this was a poor young boy who couldn't have done this, even though she listened to the police tapes where he admitted doing it, where we were read these terrible books where he talked about murdering people, she would not believe that this person was capable of doing it and because of that she would not return a vote of guilty.