

My name is Whitney Nigro Pritchard. When I was in the 5th grade I was molested by a neighborhood babysitter. I was in middle school when my older brother started sexually abusing me. Right before my sophomore year in high school a police officer where I lived in Leawood, KS, who was almost 11 years older than me began what I now realize was grooming me. By my 16th birthday we had started a sexual relationship. I was drawn to him because I thought it would keep my brother away, that he would keep me safe. My senior year in high school, six weeks after I turned 18, we got married. Around my 21st birthday I knew something was very wrong, I thought the wrong was within me. I told my father about my brother, he already knew about the molestation in the 5th grade and of the entirety of my relationship with my then husband. His response was, "that's what brothers and sisters do". I was stunned into silence. My father did ask my brother, my brother did admit it. No worry of a false memory and not being believed, he confirmed it. As my life continued, my physical and mental illness developed and grew. Once all of my grandparents had passed away I told a large portion of my family in an alcohol induced haze via email exactly what my brother had done to me. Not a single person sent one response. I was around 35. Shamed into silence again after this disclosure. Not one person in my family stood up and made it known that they would make certain my brother would never offend against my children or any other child he would come in contact with. As I stand here today at 50 years old there is no law that will help me hold my abusers accountable. More importantly, there is no law that protects the children he has access to today. I stand before you with these other brave people to insist you change that. Based on statistics, this testimony feels more personal to someone in this room. I am sorry this happened to you too. Please help me protect our children from the predators that haven't yet been made to be accountable.

KANSAS SENATE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SEN. KELLIE WARREN
CHAIRWOMAN
(785) 296-7646
Kellie.Warren@Senate.KS.Gov
Kansas Capitol, Room 419-E



BARBARA MOORE
COMMITTEE ASSISTANT
(785) 296-6817
Barbara.Moore@Senate.KS.Gov
Kansas Capitol, Room 419-E

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Bill # SB 317
Please note nomenclature (HB, SB, SCR, etc.)

Date of Testimony 3/23/2023
(MM/DD/YY)

Category:
Please select one

- Proponent
 Opponent
 Neutral

Conferee

Whitney Pritchard
First name Last Name

Delivery:
Please select one

- In-person
(Speaking w/15 hard copies & a PDF)
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Organization represented and title, if any

913-251-0295
Phone number

whitneypritchard@gmail.com
Email address

Contact (If different than above)

First name Last Name

Phone number

Email address