

My name is Terin Humphrey. I'm a 2 X Olympic Silver Medalist from the Kansas City area. I will soon be a Kansas resident, as well as my two young daughters.

I was abused at the age of 15 and I'm 36 years old now. It took me over 20 years to come forward and talk about what happened. And. I'm still not comfortable talking about it.

So why didn't I come forward and why is it important now to come forward?

Nobody wants to believe someone that is so trustworthy be capable of such horrific things. Children are worried that they will not be believed. What will people think about me? Will my future be in jeopardy? Maybe it's easier to just not say anything. Imagine the most terrible, embarrassing thing that has ever happened in your life. Would you want to share it?

I tried years and years to forget what happened, to move forward, to survive, or whatever you want to call it. But it's not that easy, sure I have good days, but I still have bad days. I didn't even want to believe myself. One day the nightmares consume you until you can't eat, you can't sleep, you can't live. Took me having children to truly understand that this is something I just can't move on from. I knew what I had to do in order to be a better mom.

I owe it to my children to protect them, if we are going to live in the State of Kansas. It time to hold abusers accountable for their actions.

So why is this bill so important? Our children deserve and are entitled to a healthy childhood. As adults, it's our duty to protect them. We can not expect children to have a limitation on when they are ready to come forward with abuse. Why are we making it the victims' responsibility? It's your job as legislatures to protect the children of Kansas.

To the survivors who have bravely come forward, we are proud of you. I think it's important for people to understand that people heal from trauma differently. When people say, "if that were to happen to me, I would have said something immediately!" But children do not think that way and are not programmed to think this way. And these are children we are talking about. Children may take days, they may take years, and in some cases they may not ever want to come forward. Either way, it's important to respect their decision. I am an Olympian, I am a NCAA Champion, I am 11 X All American, I am Hall of Famer, a mom, and I am a victim of child sexual abuse. But..... I am no different from your children or grandchildren, this can happen to anyone.

This is my message to the Kansas officials, we are resilient, we are strong, and unfortunately for the ones that are not hearing us, we will not stop until the right thing is done. We need Kansas to do better. Predators need to have consequences and they simply do not have any here after so many years. I will keep saying..... Kansas..... DO BETTER. The future deserves better. Shame on you for having an unreasonable time limit.

Terin Humphrey