

To whom it may concern,

My name is Brett Schaplowsky, I have been the victim of bullying while attending my local high school in Haysville, Ks. Bill number 278 is to help protect against bullying. Let me give you my story and why it should be passed.

My freshmen year in high school I knew nobody for the simple fact I had transferred from USD 259 to USD 261. The freshmen hazing I didn't really notice except on the athletic field when I first started there but that was in all good fun and never was oriented to hurt or scare individuals, it was bonding such as hiding a teammates clothes or tie their cleats together through the locker. Now as the year went on and the year got to spring break I had made friends with the whole team, we hung out, played soccer and other activities together outside of school and always talked to one another. When spring break came around however I experienced something changed my life and has scared me forever and I will never forget it.

My soccer friends had all left for spring break and were all gone basically and I was invited to play soccer with another upper-classman one day. I was under the impression we were friends since his sister was in my grade and was one of the first people to talk to me and become a friend. Little did I know that her brother the upper-classman and a group of at least 10-12 we going to be there with other things on their agenda than playing basketball. I was walking distance from my house, literally across the street behind the neighbors playing on a playground basketball court or so I thought I was going to be doing. Once I got there they stopped playing basketball and come out of the caged court. The only thing I can remember before blacking out was them yelling at me calling me names trying to scare me which wasn't necessary since I was already afraid when they started pushing and interrogating me about why I moved schools and why was I friends with his sister and so on.

After waking up from the blackout I ran home the best I could bleeding all over my clothes. When school came around the bullies had uploaded a video of two individuals roughly 5'10 140 and 6'3 210 and I was 5'2 95. They were beating me, kicking me, stomping on me, and at the end of the video I try to get up and the bigger of the two had kicked me in my ribs then in the face and according to the doctors I am lucky I didn't die from the kick. Now I didn't know any of these individuals except 3 of them only because I heard things about them at school. So now you could imagine I was scared or the worst was over but it wasn't. Yes I pressed charges and basically nothing happened to them but they did however chase me out of Kansas before school was out and for the summer. And sophomore year I was still being chased and pushed around by these others who didn't get caught in the video because I told on them. Threatening to shoot me and everything else, and me myself was so scared I didn't know what to do. I started cutting myself, popping pills; I quit hanging out with friends. The impact of the beating and them chasing me for the next year and a half has been stuck in my head and even worse now I'm 20 nearly 21 I'm afraid to even have a child because of what happened to me. I can't imagine going through what my family did.

I had thoughts of suicide, I wouldn't talk to anyone about what was wrong, why I was always sad, why I wouldn't go anywhere with friends if we were going to be surrounded by people we didn't know and outnumbered. I stopped trying to go out for sports till my senior year. I stuck with one sport all the way through only because my teammates on the soccer team protected me year round. I was afraid of everyone but them.

Bullying is a serious problem and even though the past is the past I don't want to see or hear about this happening to another child. Bill number 278 will give hope to those being bullied and show there are people who care about them. That they can run to someone and not be afraid; please pass this bill. The younger generation is depending on you for protection.