

Hello,

My name is Tamell Jason Heitman and I am present today to testify as a proponent for the members of Justice for Survivors Group. My story is similar to most women growing up in the 70's. Sexual crimes were an unspoken taboo in my household. I am told most often sexual assaults and molestations are committed by someone you know. Regrettably, my sisters and I were sexually assaulted by a family member in our youth. During that time, the city of Los Angeles responded and quickly placed us into the custody of my biological mother. Treatment or counseling was not provided in back then, like most, we tried to put the bad memories behind us. In the year 1999, I encountered my first emotional breakdown, note that this is many years past the deadline for reporting sexual assault crimes. To be more specific, I was thirty years of age, facing a past trauma that occurred nearly 20 years ago. After treatment, after counseling, after the many years of hurt, pain, and suffering I feel that I am left without justice or piece of mind. Today I would like to stand for the removal of the current limitation statues for rape. I firmly believe that the current bill, as it stands, protects sexual criminals from being prosecuted and by doing so, the law as it stands is granting criminals another chance to continue victimizing innocent people. My hope is to allow for justice to continue no matter what age the aslant or victim might be. Time does not erase past traumas for survivors of sexual assault, nor should it protect the perpetrators who conveniently slip through the system.

Tamell Jason-Heitman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamell Jason Heitman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.