

**Floyd Bledsoe**  
**Testimony on Senate Bill 92**  
**Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing**  
**Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.**

My name is Floyd Bledsoe, and I am from Oskaloosa in Jefferson County. I spent nearly 16 years in prison for a crime that I did not commit.

I was wrongfully convicted of the murder and sexual assault of my sister-in-law Camille Arfmann. Finally, I was exonerated in December 2015 after DNA evidence and a suicide note from my brother Tom revealed that he was the real perpetrator and that I was innocent.

Being in prison for a decade and half not only robbed me of my life. It robbed my children of a father and my wife of a husband. And it robbed Camille's family of the justice they deserved. I've spent a lot of time thinking about what could have been done to prevent my wrongful conviction. While a number of factors were involved, I believe that a simple police practice—recording of interrogations—could have made a big difference.

My brother Tom originally confessed to the crime, led investigators to the body, and surrendered the murder weapon. Then Tom recanted and told investigators that I admitted to killing Camille. Despite the evidence against him, law enforcement decided to charge me instead of Tom.

It came down to my brother's word against mine. But the jury couldn't hear most of our words because there were no recordings of Tom's interrogation, confession or recantation, and the first several hours of my interrogation were unrecorded. Without a recording of our statements, jurors had to rely on detectives' memories, which are imperfect and subjective. For example, one detective told the jury that Tom's recantation was the only time he was telling the truth, which gave it credibility.

Had there been recordings of Tom's statements, jurors would have been able to hear inconsistencies in his story that changed to fit emerging details of the investigation. Had jurors been able to hear me maintain my innocence throughout hours of interrogation, I may not have been convicted. This case was about credibility and recordings would have helped jurors understand who was telling the truth.

It has been a little more than a year since I was exonerated and I am rebuilding my life. I have a job in heating and air conditioning repair and I am reestablishing a relationship with my kids, who are now adults. I am going to work as hard as I can to ensure that no other Kansan has to go through what I did. That is why I hope you will support Senate Bill 92 to protect the innocent in our state.