

February 16, 2017

Kansas Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Rick Wilborn, Chair

Re: 2017 Senate bill 101: Amending the Protection from Abuse Act and Protection from Stalking Act to establish the Protection from Stalking or Sexual Assault Act

**Survivor Impact Testimony In Support of SB101**

Good Morning Esteemed Senators,

My name is Alycee Valdivia. I would like to start by expressing my immense gratitude to you for your time and openness today. Thank you for your consideration while hearing the accounts of testimony presented by the hearts of courageous survivors and organizations who support them.

I won't provide a long account of my personal experience – just basic information so you can understand my perspective. I will never forget where I was on Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013. I was in Pleasanton, KS visiting an old family friend who was experiencing hard emotional times. After a time, I felt it was getting late, I noticed he seemed to have a more positive affect, and I decided it was time to go home. When I prepared to leave, he blocked my path and forcibly raped me and became very upset with me for resisting him.

That night I lost 20 years of what I thought was a close friendship. I lost my feeling of self-worth – I felt that if a friend could do this to me, what worth did I have? I lost my sense of safety – my friend knew where I lived, where I worked, where my family was, my life routine. If this person – who now didn't even seem like a person – could not control his sexual drive or behavior, how was he to control his anger when I pressed charges?

For days, weeks, and months I lived in fear. He was a mechanic and I feared that he would alter my vehicle at night when I slept or while I was at work. He had a great job and a family and I feared that he would come after me and my family. I reported the crime and did all I possibly could to see that he wouldn't be able to hurt anyone else. I wanted to get a protection order, and I asked about it, and was told that I could not get one because he never contacted me, harassed me or stalked me after he raped me. The message I received when I was denied the protection order was that the crime against me was only crime enough if he had threatened or attempted charge on my life for a second time. He has harassed me in my dreams too many times to count, but that doesn't count.

I am here today asking for your help to make this count for someone else. I am here to voice my support for senate bill 101 so that future survivors can have this much needed option for safety.

Thank you, Alycee Valdivia