

Mr. Chair and members of the committee:

My name is Jae Moyer and I am here to provide testimony in favor of HB 2306. I have strong feelings about many things, but this bill is one that is very near and dear to my heart. When I was fifteen years old, I placed myself in a situation which still makes me feel uncomfortable today. I had made friends with a guy who I became close to. I spent more time with him, and once I even snuck out of the house to be with him. I feel things very deeply, so I thought we were on the road to a relationship, but after one night of being together, it became clear that there was only one thing this person was interested in. This person decided to use me for my body in a way that I was not ready for. He knew my age, but he had never mentioned his. When I first met him, I thought he was a senior in high school. One night, he revealed to me that he was 24 and six years out of high school. When I realized he was almost ten years older than me, I began to feel uncomfortable, but I didn't say anything because I didn't want to lose the relationship we had shared before. Later that night, after seeing a movie with him, he invited me over to his apartment in Overland Park to hang out. I was too young to really understand what that meant, because I just thought he wanted to cook or hang out more, then I could have left when I got tired. When we got to his place, he got closer to me and we kissed, then he invited me into his shower. I did not want to go, but he pressured me saying it was fine and that everything would be okay. I headed into his bathroom and he closed and locked the door behind him. When we got in, the only thing I could think about was how hot the water was. It was making me feel a little dizzy, and I'm sure that a big part of that was also how nervous I was. He forced me to have anal sex with him and I asked him to stop, but he didn't. I told him I was uncomfortable, and he told me to keep taking it because it would look bad to other people in the gay community if I wasn't able to continue having sex with him. At one point I closed my eyes and fell down in his shower and that's when he stopped. I got up as quickly as I could and used one of his towels to dry off. I put my clothes on and then I left. The next few days he would call me slurs like faggot and bitch boy on my social media until it got to the point where I had to block him. I tried to forget him but even now that I'm 21 years old, whenever I try to have any type of relationship with someone else, sexual or otherwise, all I can think of is how much pain I was in that night.

I want to make clear that this has nothing to do with the fact that this was a homosexual relationship. Some of the kindest, most legitimate and trustworthy people I know are members of the LGBTQ+ community. This is about a person who took advantage of me when I was too young to even understand what was happening. Under current state law, I could not take action on this person, even though I am now much more aware of how horrifyingly terrible what this guy did to me is. But with this bill, I would be able to take action. I am not the only person with a story like this one. I am one of likely hundreds or more of people in this state who were taken advantage of when they were too young to stand up and do something about it or even understand what was really going on. People like me need the chance to get their voice back. I need my voice back. Please vote YES on HB 2306. Thank you.

-Jae Moyer