

Annabelle (age 15)
Statement on SB420

I am a fifteen year old girl who is a victim of breach of privacy. When this happened to me, I hadn't even been fifteen for an entire month yet. On May 31, 2019 I was at Target, trying on swimsuits with one of my friends. We went into the dressing rooms, and we each went into different rooms. I had heard a man's voice and heard him ask the Target worker if these dressing rooms were for everyone and she said yes, I thought it was weird but didn't really think anything of it. I began to try on a swimsuit top, and took off my shirt and bra but still had on my shorts. I started to put on the top, and noticed a phone camera over top of the dressing room door. At this point, I didn't have the top on all of the way, so there was some nudity. I immediately went to the door and opened it to yell at him. It was such a traumatic event that I can't 100% remember what I said, but I know it was something along the lines of "You need to get the hell out of here!". When I opened the door, I was able to get a good enough look at him to remember what he was wearing. When I yelled at him, he put down the pants that were in his arms, and ran away instantly. I yelled for my friend in the other room, and told her I needed help. The Target lady came in, and was not a very good help whatsoever. As a young girl, it was a disappointment when the lady didn't seem to believe me.

As an individual, my life has not been the same ever since that day. There isn't a single day where I don't think about what happened to me. I mean, it's life changing. It has definitely opened my eyes as a young lady, and has made me really pay attention to my surroundings. Unfortunately, I just threw away the clothes I was wearing that day because I never wanted to wear them again. There are still triggers that I get to this day, and I really just try to avoid them as much as possible. Ever since the day it happened to me, I haven't stepped foot into that Target because I'm way too nervous to see how I'll act. If there is one reason that I would go back to that Target, it would be to see if they have done anything different to the dressing rooms. I really try to avoid trying on clothes in any store because I'm just so nervous of it happening again. It's such a crazy situation that no one really thinks about, but now that it has happened to me, I realize that no girl should ever go through this. When you first hear about this situation, it doesn't sound as bad because there isn't any contact, but it's still a traumatizing event. I feel like a piece of me has been taken away, and no girl should feel like that.

I believe that it is very important to make changes to the laws and punishment for certain breach of privacy cases in Kansas. The current laws are outdated and are not current with the technology and accessibility individuals have to cameras and video recording. Unfortunately, individuals who commit certain invasion of primacy crimes, tend to commit those crimes more than once. In my situation, the perpetrator had been given probation for doing the same thing to another teenage girl, and turned around and did it to me just 24 hours later after receiving his sentence. If these types of crimes are treated as series as they are, hopefully criminals will be less likely to be so quick to commit them.