

Testimony of Crystal Sawyer

Kaylee's Law (LC 644)

House and Senate Joint Judiciary Committee

December 14, 2018

Chair Prozanski, Chair Barker and members of the committee.

My name is Crystal Sawyer. I am Kaylee Sawyers stepmom. I am here today to speak about "Kaylee's law".

I had known Kaylee for sixteen years of her life, and was her stepmom for fourteen of those years. Not just her stepmom, but she was in our home full time. I spent a lot of time with this beautiful young lady. I have supported her and loved her for sixteen years.

I want to share a bit about Kaylee's personality. She was bold and fierce with strong opinions; she would have made an amazing lawyer. She was kind and loving; she adored her father, who took amazing care of her. She loved her silly brothers, who now are twelve and fifteen. She loved her family, with all the dynamic personalities and flaws, she had a way to look thru them and see who you really were.

She was very determined in what she wanted to do. From a young age, she wanted to become a brain surgeon, and when her uncles would tell her how many years of school she had to have, she would reply, "What you don't think I could do it? Watch me!" It's that kind of personality, strong and bold, that gave her drive to be successful in whatever she decided to do in her life.

I share this with you because since I can remember, Kaylee always wanted to go to college to better herself, and become successful. Her downfall, she trusted to many people and thought nobody would hurt this five foot two inch one hundred pound beautiful blonde young lady. And who of all people not only hurt her, but ultimately murdered her was none other than a college campus security guard, who was supposed to keep her safe. I will not go into detail of this crime, as her father, my husband, will be sharing that. But I will touch on some key facts that played a huge role in Kaylee losing her fighting chance.

At the age of twenty three Kaylee was walking down the sidewalk on the college campus as the college employee put her into his college issued patrol SUV, which had a cage, like the ones used to restrain criminals, and internal locks, so Kaylee could not escape. Once he had her in his control, he started to proposition her for sex. Kaylee began to scream for help, and kept on screaming for anyone to step in and be her hero.

Here is my strong willed girl fighting for her life in this instant, in a patrol car, locked in a caged car, with nobody to hear her alone with an employee of this college. This security guard of this college got a position guarding our most precious treasures. The life of OUR children!

Without specific protocols of a simple psychological exam, or the ability to share a test should be an absolute protocol. It will help rule out, a person who could potentially be a sociopath, and who should not be allowed to “protect” our kids.

The murderer who committed this crime was not on a specific route and was not being watched or monitored, which also allowed him to commit this horrendous crime.

I believe that with some pretty simple changes to patrolling vehicles, and their patrol attire, cameras, and a GPS on the cars themselves, knowing what routes to take, allows us to know if an employee is taking too long, or has gone somewhere they have no reason to go. There are many protocols listed in this proposed bill, that we truly believe would have kept Kaylee safe. I believe when these changes do happen, it will keep future generations safer than they are today, and quite possibly see crime rates go down on Oregon college campuses.

I wanted to give you a taste of something that is so vastly important today. I want you to think of Kaylee as if she was your daughter, your niece, or even step daughter. As we go forward with this bill, I want you to picture Jamie and I as we continue to fight for our girl. It's too late for Kaylee now. She lost her fight. But I ask you to be her hero that she was looking for, and be the hero for the future with these changes.

I'm going to leave you with this. The very last Mother's day card that Kaylee had hand made me on May 8th 2016. I will continue to support Kaylee even in her death, with the changes in campus security programs and laws, until there are no more changes to be made. For you, my Kaylee girl.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY CRYSTAL!

You have been one of my biggest supporters since day one. It has taken me a good 14 years of my life for me to come to that conclusion, yet never once did you falter in your love for me. I am so thankful that I have you in my life. I am so thankful that you have given me two of the smartest, silliest, most adorable little brothers, a big sister could ask for. I am so thankful you supplied my dad with the love and happiness only a woman like you could provide. We have fought like siblings at times and my attitude would be enough to make a lot of people run out the door screaming, however, I am glad those days are past. And I couldn't be more excited for the friendship that will develop between us in the years to come. I idolize you and appreciate you more than you will ever understand. Thank you for signing up to be my mom. I love you endlessly.

♡ Me