

Testimony of Jamie 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 Jamie Sawyer, husband to Crystal Sawyer. I am a life long resident of Bend Oregon, a father of 3 and owner of two successful businesses in our town. This is the last place I ever would have wanted to be speaking under the circumstances. I'm here to represent a beautiful, intelligent young lady, to be her voice. The young lady I speak of is our daughter, Kaylee Anne Sawyer.

When Kaylee was born and ever since, I experienced what unconditional love actually means. This love is beyond comprehensive depths. My life would gladly never be the same. I would have moved the moon and the stars for her. My purpose and joy in life was being her father, teaching her, protecting her. She was my little blondie growing up. Later in life I would get a spark of joy every time I would see her number pop up on my phone. To get a hug from her, smell her hair or kiss her soft cheek, melted my heart. She gave me three significant intangible assets that are dear to me and will try my

best to live out and honor her by. She admired and respected our generosity, forgiveness and much to my satisfaction, frequently told her boyfriend and others that “my dad can do anything”. This generally happened when she needed help with something mechanical and promptly told her boyfriend he didn’t know what he was doing.

Kaylee made everyone feel better when she was around, her love of life was infectious. Her smile, bigger than life, her laugh and giggle so unique, I can hear it in my head. I could watch a video of her over and over, just to hear her voice. The way she said “DAD!” could only come from her. She had such a variety of friends and loved everyone just where they were in life. I heard from so many people, she made them feel special and the center of her attention. She was the glue that held so many of us together and without that, has become very apparent in many relationships.

The positive influence she had over her brothers was profound. Weather she wanted it or not, Kaylee held the spotlight in the family her whole life. A young lady that endured the hardship of a terrible long term divorce, but came out the other side, a compassionate, deeply loving personality. She fiercely loved all her family. If you spoke poorly of any family member she would not tolerate it. Her wit and sarcasm was fantastic and hard to compete with. She had one of the most

unique and adaptable personalities I've ever meet. She was meant for greatness.

I'm going to tell you the story of the night on July 24th 2016. The night the idea of Bend Oregon being a quaint innocent town was shattered and a family forever broken in disbelief from a living nightmare. Out of respect for Kaylee I will not refer to the other individual in this story by name.

Kaylee was walking down the sidewalk, not far from the apartment complex where she lived, next to our community college campus around 1:00 in the morning. An argument with her boyfriend prompted the walk, still wearing her dress and high heels from the bachelorette party attended earlier down town. A car pulled up behind her. It was apparently a law enforcement vehicle by the markings and lights. An individual in uniform approached her asking if she wanted a ride. After some persuasion he put her in the back seat. As they started to drive this individual noticed the young lady was intoxicated and proceeded to ask for sexual favors, which she declined forcefully.

The individual got more aggravated, demanding that she give him her purse and phone. Kaylee started panicking and handed the man her belongings through the plexiglass cage dividing the front and rear seats. She started screaming for help and tried to open the doors. However the child locks and plexiglass cage

had her trapped. The uniformed person proceeded to drive to a secluded location on the college campus that he knew was poorly lit and had no cameras. The individual got out of the car while Kaylee flailed through the cage trying to reach light switches, a horn anything to draw attention. The uniformed person opened up the rear SUV door and fought with the Kaylee. She fought fiercely but with little effect against the bullet proof vest he was wearing and the fact he was trained for physical defense, and outweighed her by 70 lbs. The signs of how hard she fought were seen all over her body in the autopsy.

She screamed till he managed to choke her into unconsciousness. He then began to drag her off into the bushes. Kaylee became conscious again and again began screaming. This time the uniformed officer choked her till unconscious and hit her in the side of the head, fracturing her skull. While she was still breathing, the uniformed officer proceeded to rape her. When done he took a bigger rock and smashed her beautiful smile and face. The police later described her as being “unrecognizable”. That word will haunt me for the rest of my life.

The individual left the body and drove his security vehicle back to the campus security station. He cleaned up, then drove his regular car back to the crime scene and put the body in the

trunk. On his way back home the individual threw Kaylee's body on the side of the road next to a house about 20 miles from the crime scene. A day later the individual panicked, fearing someone would find the body, loaded her back into the trunk of a car, drove another 10 miles to another location and threw her body off the side of a highway embankment, disrespecting Kaylee one last time.

After this murder, and over a 2 day period, this individual drove to Salem and kidnapped 19 year old Aundrea Maes, using his security issued hand cuffs and a police issued pistol he took from his wife. He stole Aundrea's car and drove to California shooting an elderly man and kidnapping another family after Aundrea's car broke down. After a high speed chase the individual was caught and hauled back to central Oregon to face his crimes.

He was convicted of aggravated murder and burglary and is now serving a life sentence. The other victims are waiting to this day for the murderer to be sentenced for the additional crimes committed in Oregon and Washington 2-1/2 years ago.

Kaylee was 23 when she was brutally murdered. She would be 25 now. I never saw my daughter's body again as the officers advised it would be unwise to see her. So all I know and have since the last time I saw her, is what I've been told happened and a box with my daughter's ashes. My mind still can't

comprehend the incomprehensible. I feel she's still going to walk through the door with that big smile and goofy laugh.

She brought sunshine to every room she entered. This event ripped through thousands of people's lives. It left my wife and me in such a state of despair, anger and anxiety that we couldn't leave the house or workplace without having a panic attack for months. Every holiday, every birthday is a depressing reminder of who's missing and what we have to live without the rest of our lives. The hope and joy that I had in my daughter, is now missing and has left a hole in me that I have to walk around every day with fear of falling in. The pain is so unbearable at times it still takes my breath away. This murder has fractured the relationships with our whole family and left us feeling very alone. This has left me feeling inadequate to be the best dad to my boys and husband to my wife. I feel there's so much less of me and what's broken can't be fixed.

The most infuriating part of this story came later as I discovered how preventable this murder should have been. In fact it should have been impossible for this individual to commit these crimes if proper policies and procedures had been in place, policies and procedures that had been in question by our chief of police for years before this murder even occurred. But the governing powers over our college

campus security program ignored the warnings of the chief and local DA.

Now we get to my next purpose in life. To honor my daughter and help others, so these events can't be played out again by another violent individual. Campus security officers are entrusted to keep our most valuable assets safe, our children. This college failed my daughter and put a sociopathic individual in a trusted position with little safeguards to assure his behavior on the job was appropriate. People with violent tendencies and sociopaths (antisocial personality disorders) can be hard to pick out, but with proper hiring practices for these positions of great trust, they should be easier to identify. And if one does slip through the cracks, there should be policies and procedures keeping the criminally minded from acting out their violent intentions.

That is why with much help I've proposed "Kaylee's law", a bill that is intended to fill in the grey areas of our loose statutes surrounding college campus security operations. I implore you to look into and support this bill. As you read it, the details of Kaylee's story should speak sense and truth to what's written in it.

One final point I'd like to make before closing. You might be asking why are we looking to change law for one random incident, terrible as it may be? Well the facts of this case show

that if it was not Kaylee it was going to be someone at some point. Do any of you have a daughter attending a college in Oregon? Let that sink in. This is not a lightning strike, this individual was going to act out his violent intentions on someone eventually and then someone else if he got away with it, and maybe he did and we just don't know it. When these facts dawned on me, I was furious that the college did not immediately cease and desist operations till they could properly vet personnel and evaluate their policies and procedures. How could they possibly know if there was not another person with those personality traits in their midst, in fact how could any of the colleges in Oregon not be asking the same questions?!

To my knowledge our local college, COCC has ignored most of the facts in this case and done little to address the obvious changes needed in light of Kaylee's horrendous murder. Please hear Kaylee's voice in this story and the need for change.

Thank you for your time

