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Bill numbers.....SB247 and HB 5432

Coleman, Eric D.	Co-Chair	D
146 - Fox, Gerald M.	Co-Chair	
Kissel, John A.	Ranking Member	R
125 - Hetherington, John W.	Ranking Member	

Good Morning Senators Colman and Fox, and Representatives Kissel and Hetherington and honorable members of the committee.

I am in support these two raised bills.

This bill is important not only because i was assaulted several years ago but also because i am a mentally disabled youth who takes a very high level offense when someone decides that we are such an easy target. I have Autism Spectrum Disorder along with several other diagnosis such as Post Traumatic Disorder. I am here today to fight for equality for people with Non Verbal Learning disabilities and though i can say no my words went unheard as due to my physical delay that i was overtaken and could not fight.

Sexual assault has specific guide lines when youth are involved for a good reason. This is a sensitive subject and not one that any child should face. The age limits set by this bill are important for youth protection but more important is when a person with disabilities such as Autism who by mere nature view their world as black and white. You are not to fight back with anyone because that is the law, no gray to see that if you are in danger and what is danger that I perceive may be incorrect information. I process information slower to formulate the correct answer and by that time I was being held down face first into a pillow with "my friend" laying on top of me sodomizing me. I felt helpless. What more can I say!!

I did report it right after the incident to the adult in charge of our groups outing, everyone of the parents there were only 30 feet away and my other friend was in the tent with us to scared to do anything because what I didn't know at the time but he was being a victim too. He also is Autistic. All I could say to the adults was the boy peed on me and hurt me. I didn't know what it was called, I didn't know i could fight back, and I trusted this person that I had known for several years - he was the same age as I was.

Now this is why this bill is so important to cover the wording that is being proposed. We were 11 years old - almost 12 and in some ways I am very thankful for that because of the sodomy but 12 year olds don't use power over another, knowingly befriend kids who process things differently or in your words Mentally disabled. They don't say "I am going to make a man out of you". It is and was not a case of normal adolescent behavior and exploration. It was not "boys being boys". I hate that term - to this day no one can come up close behind me without my having severe anxiety, fight to not to lash out.

It took 6 months for the police to get an arrest on him, till then the school left him in class with us, were he stalked us, came to our classes unhindered by lying to get out of his classes and followed me to my changing room in gym. The school could not help because of "fear of legal ramification" and mean while we suffered, made victims again and everyone could not understand why I was upset, Mom was upset, Mom even dropped the F bomb on our principle after finding out I was stalked to the changing room. This was not a case of boys will be boys ... it was more much more.

Thank You for the time to testify and i am happy to take any questions but it will take me time to process what you are looking for.

Robert James Payne