

Testimony of Jennifer Wenderoth-Holster
In Support of S.B. 3: An Act Combating Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment
Judiciary Committee

April 1, 2019

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Jennifer Wenderoth-Holster and I am the Founder and Owner of Let It Be Heard. We are an organization that is giving a voice to ending sexual violence, domestic violence, and stalking and I am in support of S.B. 3: An Act Combating Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment.

Back in 2004 when I was a college student at a Connecticut University, I was sexually assaulted while I was asleep in my own dorm room. The day after I was raped I spent hours in the emergency room being poked and prodded by strangers while having a rape kit done. Over the next few weeks, I was repeatedly questioned by police. The rape kit, the endless questions, the reliving my rape over and over was my attempt to seek justice, but that never happened.

My sexual assault report and the rape kit was lost. I fought for 5 years trying to get my case to go to court, but how can something go to court when everything you need is lost? Nothing ever happened to my rapist because of the 5-year statute of limitations.

It wasn't until 8 years after my assault did I find out what happened my report and rape kit. I was told by the Chief of Police that it had been misplaced while moving offices during construction. I never got to go to court, I never got to look my rapist in the face and tell him what he took away from me, I never got justice. Maybe had the 5-year statute of limitations had not been in place, I would have. Maybe when they finally found my report and rape kit I could have gone to court. But this 5-year statute stood in my way for seeking justice.

That night my life changed forever. A piece of me was taken that I will never get back. But for the last nine years, I have been working with victims and survivors of sexual assault. I help them reclaim the power that was taken from them and support them so their voices can be heard. Sadly victims are faced with blame, retaliation, no support, and fear. There are endless obstacles facing rape victims when trying to seek the justice they so rightfully deserve, and a 5-year statute of limitations shouldn't be one of them.

I hope you will join me in supporting S.B. 3: An Act Combating Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment. Please, listen to our voices, let us be heard, and end the statute of limitations.

Thank you for your time,
Jennifer Wenderoth-Holster
Owner and Founder
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