

IN SUPPORT OF L.D. 95

Resolve, To Create the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children

Senator Craven, Representative Farnsworth and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Robin G. Bouchard from Robbinston Maine. I am not really a public speaker, but I am here today as a mother and teacher's aid. I grew up in a all American, typical, loving and safe family. I had no idea what sexual abuse was. My daughter Kayla, Garriott endured seven years of rape, abuse and incest at the hands of her biological father. Her father and I were no together at the time. He abused her on the weekends he had her. I didn't know or see the signs of sexual abuse in my daughter at home or at school.

She chose to be the perfect child/student so no one knew. She played sports, was a honor roll student and was well liked. So I didn't look for signs. Now I see and know there were signs. I have done nothing but educated myself on the subject of sexual abuse.

There were signs that I missed. Examples: wanting to be alone after the weekend visits from her father, which I took as being over tired from the busy weekend. Eating habits slowly but surely changed, fainting spells came into the picture, which I chalked up to her becoming a teen-ager. She made excuses not wanting to go see him, which I never force her to go. I just thought she was realizing what I did about her father.

But, when I found a journal she was writing stories about what was happening to her. I was shock and sicken. I then started educating myself. If I had had the education at school as an employee, I might have picked up on the signs or heard her silent cries for help. What I found out about the signs, her tiredness was from being drugged and raped, losing/gaining weight or changing the eating habits is a sign that something was not right. I questioned her on this but she always had an answer such as nervous before a test or big game, I already ate, I will eat later, I would hear "mom please" fainting spell, I found out were or could have been flashbacks. I took her to a specialist on this and there was nothing wrong, because it was her emotional well being that was broken, her soul was damaged.

So with this being said, I support LD 95 Resolve to create the task force on Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children. This should be brought to school as an educational platform for the students, staff and parents. If there had been some sort of sexual awareness education in school maybe Kayla wouldn't had to endured seven years of rape abuse and incest. Maybe she could have found the words through education and school to have open up to myself or another adult or friends. So please join me in supporting this law to save another child innocence, self esteem, and future by not having to go through what Kayla has. Thank you so much.

A mother and Educator.
Robin Bouchard