

Wyatts Law House Bills 5276-5280 Hearing 11/2/2021

Good Afternoon-

My name is Christyne Kadlitz and I am a single mother of 3 wonderful children. I have come here today to share a little of my personal story of child abuse and explain why Wyatt's Law is so very important and essential to the safety of the children of Michigan.

My son Travis English was a victim of child abuse between the ages of 3-5, at the hands of ex's girlfriend Rachel Edwards on several occasions during visitations with his father.

At first, my children's clothes were being sent home destroyed, cut or soaked with urine. A chunk of Travis hair missing and my daughter's hair had been hacked off. When I asked the children who had done something like that, they advised me Rachel had done it. On one occasion my son Travis, who was just three at the time, came home from a visit and was walking funny and grabbing at his crotch area like it was bothering him. I took him into the bathroom, to find that my son had one of Rachel's sons baby bottle nipples over his penis and balls and toilet paper shoved all in his butt crack. I was really disturbed by this and called his father to comfort him on it. Travis Sr try to say that our three-year-old son had done that to himself. I, as a mother knew otherwise. I started to deny visitations.

I took my ex back to court and despite my concerns the courts allowed to continue visitations starting off supervised for 3 months. Once unsupervised visits started back up, so did the abuse. My son's boots had been cut with a razor, my son had black sharpie marker scribbled all over his winter coat and on his skin across his back and arms. My daughter Savannah advised me that Travis had his mouth washed out with soap that day as well. My son, who is highly ADHD, was groggy and could not keep his head off the kitchen table before dinner. I knew something wasn't right rushed him to the ER and he was admitted to the hospital. My son remained in this state for four days in the hospital. The doctors ran several tests on him from blood work, EKG to a spinal tap. They could not figure out why my little boy couldn't stay awake. They determined that he had consumed some sort of drug but were not able to get a positive test result with the non-corporation of Travis Sr and Rachel, unwilling to provide us with a list of medication within the house to test for. In my gut, I knew that Rachel had done this to my son and I asked to speak to CPS. I was told that because there was no positive test result that they wouldn't take my case.

Visitations were to continue and so would the abuse. On Jan. 30, 2011, that same month my son had been released from the hospital, the children came home from a visit with Travis Sr and Rachel and while unpacking the children's bag I found the outfit that my son Travis had on the day before, completely soaked in urine. My son was completely potty trained and had never had an accident, so I was completely thrown off by finding this. When I asked the kids what happened, I was told that Rachel wouldn't let him use the bathroom forcing him to urinate on himself. When I went to give my son a bath a couple hours later, I noticed purple and blue hands prints across my sons butt. You could see the individual fingers welted across the skin. I took him back to the same ER to have him examined and the abuse documented. I was advised to talk to CPS and a detective. During the investigation process it was found that my daughter Savannah, who was 6 at the time, witness the whole incident and would later have to testify against Rachel in court. Rachel had indeed spanked my son with his pants pulled down

mother just trying to keep my children safe in any way I could and she was getting away with abusing my son.

During the time of the trial Travis Sr was forced to leave Rachel to keep custody of their two children. Rachel moved on into another relationship. She brought this new boyfriend with her to court proceedings and to the sentencing. They laughed and kissed in the lobby of the court room. I just couldn't understand how someone could be with her knowing she was being charged with child abuse for a second time and how nonchalant they were sitting in the courthouse as like nothing was going on. I hoped and prayed that, that man had no children, for I knew what Rachel was capable of.

Come to find out that man did have a child. A 1-year old little boy named Wyatt. On November 1, 2013, only 10 days after she was sentenced for child abuse for my son and released, Rachel almost killed that little boy from shaking baby syndrome. My heart sank to my stomach. Rachel Edwards was at it again hurting someone else's little boy! I was completely beside myself. If only she had been locked up on the prior charges of child abuse for my son, she would have never been able to put her hands on another little innocent boy.

As you heard in Erica's testimony Rachel was charged for a 3rd time of child abuse for Wyatt and only ended up serving half her sentencing with an early parole after 5 years and released earlier this year. Now mind you Erica, myself, my son Travis and Wyatt had to attend a parole hearing every year to relive the events of the horrific child abuse she inflicted on our boys, explain why she is a danger to society and plead not to release a monster that had already been sentenced. Let's face it these judges don't follow the guidelines given and our jails are so overcrowded the inmates don't serve their full sentences despite the pleas of the victims and proof of danger to others. Our system is very broken when it comes to child abuse and the rights of children. If the courts cannot keep these child abusers behind bars we as a society, have the right to the knowledge of their convictions so we can make the educated decision before leaving our children with a previous convicted child abuser. If Erica had such knowledge of Rachels 2 prior convictions she would had been able to protect her son and so many others out there who have gone through similar situations such as ours. It has been proven that people who abuse children are most likely to repeat abuse again, such as Rachel Edwards. The number of child abuse cases continue to incase every year as Erica indicated and we need Wyatt's Law in place to assist in the fight against child abuse. So I'm here today to ask that you do your part in helping us change this severe issue we have at hand right here in Michigan and help protect these children by making Wyatt's Law happen and providing this information to the public. Thank you