

To: Chair Doherty and committee members:

I attempted to call in and give my testimony on March 25th, 2013.

Below is a copy of my testimony.

My Name is Kristina Derksen. I live in Deschutes County and am currently an on call Medical Office Assistant for Behavioral Health, School Based Health Centers of Deschutes County and the County WIC office.

Back in 2011, I had an experience which outlined for me that current law does not cover everyone in it that it should. In August of 2011, I filed a police report informing the police that a previously convicted sex offender engaged in criminal conduct against myself and another victim.

On a Saturday the sex offender came into the store where I worked and began to harass me. It was considered stalking at a later date. I told my store manager at the time of the incident. I asked the store manager if I could take time to the police. I was very scared. The manager told me that if I left the store during my scheduled shift for this matter that my future work schedules would be reduced as a disciplinary matter.

I informed the store manager that the individual was a registered sex offender that had hurt me in the past and that he was harassing me.

I also told him that the sex offender was most likely in the store to harass me and not as a customer. The manager insisted that I wait till my shift was over.

When I went to the police after work they told me that I should have reported the incident immediately in order to enable them to conduct a valid investigation and that it was too late for them to do so.

I was afraid for my safety so that Monday, my day off, I went to the court to obtain a stalking order. The court clerk at the court told me that I needed to appear in court the very next day, which I had a scheduled shift on. I called my supervisor that moment and informed that I needed to go to court the next day. The next day I went to court and obtained the stalking order and went to work that afternoon.

My supervisor cut my work hours for future schedules and cut them completely for the following day.

I did not want to leave work -but needed the stalking order to protect my son and myself, both at home and at the workplace. I could not get the stalking order at any other time than during my workshift.

I think that the law should allow for people to take time from work to achieve safety when they are in danger. It helps the individual, it keeps the workplace safe and helps society as a whole.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to tell my story.

Thank you,

Kristina Derksen