

My name is Terry Mitchell. Thank you for allowing me to speak regarding Ken Ivory's important bill which allows the people of Utah the power to amend the Utah Constitution.

In late 2013 I was a 49 year old student at SLCC. I was using art to cope with Complex PTSD. Mid November I was processing the execution of Joseph Paul Franklin.

Looking back now, I feel that offering forgiveness and speaking to him prior to the execution, shook loose old memories that appeared as flashbacks and night terrors.

In 2014 after a 28 day crippling migraine, I found myself planning my suicide. It was like I was detached from my body and watching it play out. Thankfully I called a Rape Recovery hotline. I started to put the puzzles of the past together as I spoke to the volunteer. After we hung up, my disturbing memories were no longer a migraine. I slept again and began to heal.

I went back to counseling, talked to teachers I trusted, contacted every sex abuse resource in the immediate area to ask for help and researched child sex abuse. I learned the language of what happened to me as a 49 year old woman in college.

It was hard to excuse or understand the DOJ attorney's actions before, during and after the trial, especially in his position of power. But I came to learn that power was his secret weapon.

Richard Roberts, the DOJ prosecuting attorney would have lost everything had I come forward about his illegal, coercing, grooming, manipulating and unethical behavior towards me before, during and after the trial.

But he wasn't worried. Because he was powerful and skilled at knowing how to weaponize my fears and past against me. He knew it would destroy me if I told.

Months before his abuse began, I was a 15 year old child. A shooting victim and witness to the murders of two dear friends. I was in living in hiding in Arizona from death threats made by Utah members of my community, due to the local media's unethical portrayal of my family and me. To so many, I was guilty of Ted and Dave's murders because I survived. So often I wished I didn't survive.

Roberts weaponized the arrested development of a teen victim through fear, intimidation and terror of the killer being set free. He made certain I understood that I would again be ostracized and blamed for their murders by the media.

Revealing the abuse would destroy the chances of justice for Ted Fields and David Martin and put the public at risk to more murders. He made sure to tell me about the consequences of a mistrial if I told anyone what he was doing to me. He knew I would comply because I didn't want anyone else to be hurt.

Roberts grooming behavior was textbook 101 for child sex abusers:

- Special attention, outings, and gifts
- Isolating the child from others
- Filling the child's unmet needs
- Filling needs and roles within the family
- Treating the child as if he or she is older
- Gradually crossing physical boundaries, and becoming increasingly intimate/sexual
- Use of secrecy, blame, and threats to maintain control

If the sexual relationship wasn't illegal, unethical, grooming or coercing, why did Roberts insist on secrecy? I didn't have the power or language to ask that question at the time of our "relationship". I didn't *agree* to it. I *accepted* that I had no choice but to comply in order to get justice for my murdered friends.

The shrapnel wounds were still healing all over my body as his abuse began. I could feel the wounds every time he threatened the killer's release upon mistrial and his ability to harm others once released. He knew I would comply out of fear.

I didn't have the language or ability to speak of what Roberts was doing at the time. My brain didn't allow me to see it until I was capable of understanding it, 33 years later as a grown woman.

The more I learned about child sex abuse the more I grieved, not just for me but for my family and the millions like us.

Being a victim of crime is like a bomb thrown at your family that repeatedly explodes over and over again for a lifetime. Shrapnel of shame and guilt color every relationship and future possibilities. I was powerless in a situation at the

hands of someone of extreme governmental trust. But speaking out about it has helped me heal and allowed me to meet so many survivors with stories like mine.

1 in 3 girls and 1 in 5 boys. I know I'm not alone amongst the concerned community who navigate the consequences of child sex abuse silence and ignorance.

- Child sexual abuse has lasting consequences for societies. When the prevalence of child sexual abuse is combined with its economic burden, the results are staggering.
- **FACT: Child sexual abuse is a public health problem of enormous consequence.**
 - The CDC recently estimated the lifetime burden of a new substantiated of nonfatal child maltreatment to be \$210,012 per victim. Compare that to the lifetime costs of stroke per person were estimated at \$159,846 (2010 dollars). The total lifetime costs associated with type 2 diabetes were estimated between \$181,000 and \$253,000 (2010 dollars) per case.

A few days ago I found 2 photos from 1980 and 1981. My sophomore school picture and a polaroid taken about 4 months later by Roberts. The polaroid was one of many before sexually assaulting me in my mothers bed while she was at work, thinking I was at school. He kept the other risqué photos but gave me this one as a keepsake to remember him.

For the polaroid photo session, he groomed and orchestrated my makeup and pose. It was taken about *4 months* after my sophomore school picture was taken. But I look *10 years older*.



The comparison photos are startling and telling. The second picture is a predators carefully curated photo of a sexually exploited child forced to keep a disgusting secret at an enormous lifetime expense. No wonder my brain shut those memories down til I was ready to face it.

I believe Utah is ready to face powerful predators and balance the scales of justice for the vulnerable.

Please vote in favor of HJ4. Thank you for your time.