

**Testimony of Sydney Dollinger**  
**SB 2282 - House Judiciary Committee**  
**March 21, 2023**

Good morning Chairman Klemin and members of the committee. For the record my name is Sydney Dollinger, and today I will be sharing with you a very personal story in hopes you will understand how important SB2282 is.

On September 2, 2020, I became very ill with COVID-19. I spent 25 days in isolation. For twenty-five days I sat alone in a random dorm room with none of my belongings and absolutely none of my loved ones. Let me ask you this, if you spent 25 days in isolation what is the first thing you would do? Many of you probably said see your loved ones. This too is exactly what I said.

I went home to see my family and then immediately went to Fargo, ND to see my best friends. On September 26th, I was in my friend's apartment doing nothing a normal college freshman wouldn't do. I was drinking with my friends: we were laughing, telling stories, and making memories. On September 27th, I was no longer in my own clothes, I was soaking in my own blood and throbbing from well over 50 bruises and abrasions. I had been brutally raped. I had wood shavings in my hair from the table my head was smacked against, I had lacerations inside of me and deep cuts all over. I had handprint bruising around my neck and bruising from being knelt on and held down on my pelvis.

The list of injuries I sustained is long and the ones I have listed today were the least of my problems. The worst injury my rapist inflicted upon me was post-traumatic stress disorder. Now hearing the injuries that were forced upon me, what do you think the final verdict was in my case? If you're thinking guilty, you are wrong, I lost. The man that did all this to me was found not guilty.

So now you are probably thinking, well Sydney you should sue him civilly. Which is a great idea, but it took 27 months for my case to come to a resolution. The statute of limitations to sue civilly for these types of crimes is 24 months. I have gotten no justice for what has happened to me. I have no closure and no starting line for healing. I am pleading on behalf of myself and all the other women in this state like me, please pass this bill. Although you can't change what has happened to us you can help us move on from what happened. This bill will provide so much justice and closure. As a victim there's not much more you can ask for.

Please consider a do pass vote. I will gladly answer any question you may have.