

**Testimony Sydney Dollinger**  
**SB 2282 - Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**January 30, 2023**

Madam Chair and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Sydney Dollinger. I am here to testify in favor of SB2282.

On September 28, 2020, at the beginning of my freshman year of college, I went to a party. I drank too much. My last memory of that night was my friends putting me safely to bed. The next morning when I woke up, I knew I had been raped. I woke up in a different room, bloody, bruised, and in terrible pain.

I didn't get the justice I deserved from the criminal system. The process took 2 ½ years to reach it's conclusion which put me outside the statute of limitations to sue civilly.

A defense attorney's job is not to prove innocent or guilty, it's to make the prosecutor do their job. It is really the prosecutor who is on trial because they have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a crime has been committed. When they don't do that, not guilty doesn't mean innocent. There is a huge difference.

If this bill were to pass, it would give many victims the opportunity to seek justice they may not have gotten on the criminal side. I'm sure there are people who believe civil suits are only about financial gain. I'm here today to tell you is about so much more than that.

You are probably wondering if I will sue my rapist in civil court? The answer is I don't know. Maybe. I will have to decide if bringing it all up again will be worth the toll it will take on my mental health.

Thank you for your time, Madam Chairman and members of the committee. I am happy to answer any questions.