

## **Testimony of a Family Member of a Trafficked Survivor & Director of Policy, Jaco Booyens Ministries**

**Honorable Members of the Committee,** I stand before you today not just as the Director of Policy for Jaco Booyens Ministries, but as a family member of someone who was trafficked—groomed in school, deceived, manipulated, and stolen from the safety of childhood.

My niece, Dakota, was just a child when she was first exposed to explicit content in school—content that was defended as "educational," "inclusive," and "harmless." But let me tell you the truth—what she saw, what she read, what she was taught was not harmless. It was a gateway.

These materials didn't educate her; they primed her. They opened the door for predators to confirm what she had already been told in school—that her body was for pleasure, that she had the right to explore without boundaries, that secrecy was okay. The very institutions we entrusted to teach her instead gave traffickers the language, the justification, and the permission to manipulate her.

Fifteen years. That's how long she was trapped in the hands of men who used her, sold her, and discarded her. And while Dakota is now free, she will never be the same. The scars are there—seen and unseen. But I refuse to let her suffering be in vain.

I am here today to ask—how many more Dakotas will there be before we finally say enough?

This is not a debate about censorship. This is about **protecting the innocence of children, safeguarding their futures, and dismantling the systems that make them vulnerable to predators.** The pornography, the obscenity, the sexualized curriculum—it must go. And any legislator who defends it must answer this: **What is more important—protecting children or protecting an agenda?**

This is not theoretical. This is personal.

We at Jaco Booyens Ministries work with survivors every day. We know their stories. We hear their pain. And we see, firsthand, how this exposure to graphic, sexualized content in schools, libraries, and online is a critical piece in the grooming process.

If we claim to be a society that protects children, then we must remove the rot that is destroying them. The time for pleasantries is over. The time for action is now. **Pass the laws. Remove the filth. Shut down the access points.**

Because I promise you—if you don't, the traffickers will thank you. And God help us if we continue to let them win.

Thank you,  
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