

PERSONAL ACCOUNTS FROM SURVIVORS
OF PRISON SEXUAL ASSAULTS

THE CHAIRMAN: I think all of your testimonies are shocking, profound, but necessary because, as I've said several times, I think it is important that we put a human face on these stories. And I think that the American public, if they have the opportunity to see you testify, will know that unfortunately everybody who comes into the criminal justice system is not a bad person. Sometimes they've done bad things that causes them to end up being incarcerated, but they're not bad people. And if we can put that face on the inmate population, which many inmates fall in that category, hopefully the American public will appreciate that we have to protect good people like you when you unfortunately go into the system.

So I think it is very important that you appeared before us and presented your testimony as difficult as it may be. And I'm sure at some point we will have to maybe call on you again when we have a hearing that specifically focusses, for

example, on the federal system so that the federal officials that will be present at those hearings will be able to hear what you have to say about what happened to them in their facilities.

So on behalf of myself and the commissioners, thank you for your presentations and I'm sure that it will make a difference as we go about the process of doing what we're congressionally mandated to do, so thank you.

It has been brought to my attention that conceivably what I was saying or suggesting was bad people should be raped. I don't think I said that. I don't think it could be portrayed that way, but if it was, I apologize. I don't mean to suggest that anybody who goes to prison should be raped.

I've been in the criminal justice system for over 30 years and 22 years as a judge. And I think the punishment that has melted out for somebody who commits a crime is the punishment that's imposed when the sentence is given, not the prison authority or anybody else has any right to inflict further punishment once somebody has been incarcerated in one of our prisons.