

Thank you Chairman Hardesty and members of the Committee for the opportunity to speak here today.

I've thought a lot about what message I would like to give you today. But first I think you need to know a little about how I came to be here or why I think my opinions should even matter to this committee.

On July 3rd, 1999 my 20 year old daughter Jennette Wren Testa never came home from work. She worked the night shift at Kinko's on California Street in downtown Reno. This was only a temporary job since five days earlier she had signed a six year enlistment in the United States Navy... I might add - the proudest moment of her life.

I contacted the Washoe County Sheriffs office on the night of the 3rd when I hadn't heard anything from Jenny and she was due back at work. She would never not call me, not show up for work, Jenny was the most dependable, responsible person anyone could know.

I spent the entire night and next day, the 4th of July calling every hospital emergency room and praying and wondering and somewhere inside knowing a sick feeling. The night of the 4th I stood outside on my deck of my home which overlooked Reno and recalled hearing and seeing fire trucks responding to a fire in the South Meadows business park area. The sheriffs deputy, I still remember his name as if it were yesterday ... Officer Dougherty, called me about midnight and asked if there would have been any reason Jenny would be in the South Meadows area of town and I said no... I couldn't think of any reason.

The next morning I picked up the newspaper and in a small add on piece there was an article that said they had found a body burning next to a dumpster in the South Meadows business park ... I began calling, first the fire department, then the newspaper ... everyone was closed because this was the Monday after the 4th which had been a Sunday... all I wanted to know was this the body of a small female ... I knew somewhere in my soul this was Jenny for where else would she be, then I called the Reno police department and I explained that I had a missing persons report filed on my daughter and asked if the body was that of a small female, they told me to call Washoe County where the missing persons report was filed, then I called the Washoe County detectives missing persons number that Officer Dougherty had given me and all I got was an answering machine. Just as I hung up from leaving that message Detective Jim Duncan of Reno Police called me and asked if I was the person that had called about my daughter. I said yes and asked if the body was that of a small female and he said he could never tell a mother that a body could be that of her daughter unless there was absolute proof ... and I again asked if the body was a small female ... I could feel right through the phone the true pain that he felt having to tell me that I was right, this was a body of a small female ... He then asked where my husband was and I told him he had

driving to the county sheriff's office and he asked if I could call him and have him come home and he would call me when they were through the autopsy to let me know for sure if this could possibly be Jenny.

I think I knew at that point there was no question ... and I think he also knew as well ... as I look back now over eight and a half years.

Jenny was raped and strangled to death on Saturday July 3rd, her body taken to a storage unit and left there overnight, her murderer returned on the 4th of July and took it to an area very close in to town, placed it in a sleeping bag next to a construction dumpster, poured two cans of lighter fluid and three cans of kerosene over it and set it on fire.

I was never able to see Jenny again. I could never touch her hand, touch her cheek, kiss her, nothing. I cannot begin to tell you how haunting and painful this is. I cannot begin to tell you how much I love my daughter, she was my best friend and to tell you I miss her is beyond an understatement.

I still recall the week before she died, she worked both at Kinko's and at Franktown Corners Carwash and then she would get home at around noon and sleep and sometimes in the afternoon I would sneak into her room and sit on the edge of her bed and just look at her or give her a little kiss, or brush her long beautiful hair away from her face. She had this fuzzy little teddy bear she would snuggle with and I would always make sure it was tucked in with her.

So what about Jenny's killer, what is his story? And how does justice play a role in our lives, in Jenny's short life?

Four months prior to Jenny's murder Jonathan Lloyd was arrested for manufacturing methamphetamine together with his brother (who had three outstanding arrest warrants in California), the charge for both brothers was plea bargained down to possession and they were given diversion programs. Jonathan and his brother didn't spend any time in jail. It's my understanding that the first time he even saw his probation officer was the week he murdered my Jenny. I, to this day, don't understand why he wasn't given any jail time. When I asked the DA handling the murder case he dropped his head and said very hesitantly ...'well, he got a really sweet deal.' That sweet deal cost my daughter her life.

I realize plea bargains are a part of the justice system but I am very opposed to them in many instances. There are certain crimes that when a plea bargain changes the nature and category of the crime I believe it is wrong. Primarily because as the offender moves along in

the system and eventually returns to society should he/she commit another crime there is no true record of their offenses. No one has a clear picture of the potential for destruction.

I have no confidence as a victim that any sentence can't be changed or overturned. Regardless of how often I'm told there is "truth in sentencing laws". Between what seem to me the most absurd reasons for Supreme Court reversals and then changes in state laws that adjust the way sentences are carried out, why would I think Jonathan Lloyd really would spend the rest of his life in prison?

I do know that my daughter's sentence is forever. Our family's sentence is forever. The absence of my daughter is felt every moment of my life. The crime has forever changed the circle of Jenny's family and friends lives. There is a piece of my heart that is gone forever, part of my life gone forever. Jenny's sister lives in constant fear and terror. Our sentence will never receive 'good time credits'. We live in a prison that was created by someone else's cruelty and greed.

I often wonder how a jurist who sits on a trial for weeks on end deliberating over the guilt or innocence of a murderer, who has to suffer through the heartache of the death of an innocent being, and the anguish of the family who has lost a loved one and then have the whole thing thrown out, the long hours and extreme burden of their decision just tossed away. I really don't believe that is what our forefathers believed in when they created our laws. I honestly believe they wanted justice for the innocent, not manipulation for the guilty and certainly not what was the least costly for the 'State'.

So back to my story... here is a horrific tragedy. Here are broken lives, destroyed lives and the destruction continues. Jenny's sister has had tremendous problems and while I don't have her permission to share this I am going to for the sake of this hearing. She is a heroin addict. She is in a recovery program. I am involved in Al Anon and have learned much that has helped me in many ways. One way I would have least expected is dealing with the anger over Jenny's death.

In Al Anon it is important to do 'service' and as a part of this service I have been going to the Bristlecone Center in Reno once a month, which is a rehab center that houses a number of alcoholic and drug addicts who have been court ordered to attend this center. We hold a quasi-meeting where we share our story, how we came to attend Al Anon and how drugs or alcohol has affected our lives. I talk about both my daughters. I share how Jenny's life was taken and how methamphetamine has destroyed both our family and Jonathan Lloyd's life and family. I then share about Katie and her struggles. And how much the 12 step program has been able to bring healing to me and how thankful I am able to share my family's story with the people there. I also thank them for being there, regardless of how they came to be

there. I cannot begin to tell you the positive impact that has come about because of the ability to take my story to these broken people.

The reason I share this part of my life is to ask that you consider more funding for enlarging the rehab programs. I have so often thought ... what if Jonathan Lloyd had been court ordered to attend that program. Would Jenny be alive today? Drugs and alcohol are a growing menace that is plaguing our society and Nevada by nature of the 24 hour a day lifestyle that perpetuates a culture where drugs and alcohol flourish. To prepare for today I looked up some statistics on Nevada on a web site called the Disaster Center which had rankings by State from 2005. Nevada was ranked as the 36th largest state and yet crime statistics place us in an alarming category:

Violent Crime: 9

Murder & non-negligent manslaughter: 5th

Forcible Rape: 11

Robbery: 3

Aggravated Assault: 14

Property Crime: 9

Burglary: 7

Larceny/Theft: 30

Motor vehicle Theft: 2

Since it is apparent we can't just 'lock everyone up' then we need to provide the services to aid in their recovery. If they continue to break the law then so be it, then they should be locked up since they clearly can't follow the rules of an established society. And if a sentence is given, then that sentence should be carried out.

What is the sense of laws that require certain punishments for criminal actions, setting certain expectations for certain behaviors and then not following through on the set punishment a prescribed by law. You basically are saying to a criminal, you have broken a law and the criminal system says your punishment for breaking this law is to serve so much time however the prison system can't afford to keep you for that time so to save money for the State you can be released. What does that say to the criminal? Your crime really wasn't as bad as it was made out to be?

And what about the victim? What does that say to the victim? The naïve belief that I walked into court with that the justice system was there to protect the innocent! And now my greatest fear...when will be the day that Jonathan Lloyd will not have to serve his given sentence? Or who will be the next victim of a senseless crime committed by someone who should have been in prison?

I would just like to take one moment to leave you with the words of my daughter. I found this one page document buried in Jenny's notebook. It leaves no question about Jenny's belief regarding the philosophy of Mosiac Law ... an eye for an eye. In closing I ask that you ensure that when you consider who you release you ensure it is individuals who have truly paid the price for their crimes and understand the expectation of what society requires.

Thank you for giving me the time to speak and share my feelings.

FOR WHATEVER ITS WORTH I WOULD
SUPPORT THE INTEREST IN ~~ARIZONA~~ ~~ARIZONA~~ ~~ARIZONA~~



Jennette (Jenny) Wren Testa

Born: December 16, 1978

Murdered: July 3, 1999

Topic: Mosaic Law (Eye for an Eye)

American prisons are filled w/ rapists, murderers, and thieves, and usually they don't even serve their prison terms. When they are released, they usually return to the streets to kill, rape, or steal again.

The way to solve this is the zero tolerance policy. Eye for an eye, mosaic law. ~~80% of all sexual and drug related cases are committed by~~

80% of all major crimes committed (including murder, theft, rape) are committed by repeat offenders that were either let out of jail or just let out of court. Most felonies are let out of prison, and they again return and...

if a man steals, and you cut off his hands, will he steal again? Not likely.