

March 17, 2017

To: The Honorable Nikki R. Haley

Re: Domestic Violence in South Carolina

Dear Mrs. Haley,

My daughter is the victim of domestic violence. She was in a relationship with this man for approximately 9 years. She was not his 1<sup>st</sup> victim, she was his 3<sup>rd</sup>.

This man has a 20 year history of domestic violence. He is an alcoholic. He was arrested in January of 2015 for Criminal Domestic Violence 2<sup>nd</sup> Offence. He wrapped a pair of pajama bottoms around my daughter's neck and threatened to kill her. This is not the first time that he has threatened to kill her, this was not the first time that he has attacked her. Many of her attacks were not reported because like may abuse victims, she would believe the lies of how he was sorry and that it would never happen again.

Mrs. Haley something is seriously wrong with our legal system. This man and his slick little attorney are allowed to use every trick in the book to keep this man out of jail. We went to court time after time, only for his attorney to give another reason to delay his trial. The last delay was to file for child custody. So now the child custody case takes precedence over the domestic violence case. THIS IS RIDICULOUS!!!

It takes these women years to find the strength to leave these abusive relationships. These women have been beat down and they leave and think it is over and then find themselves getting beat up by the court system.

Now my daughter has to find money for an attorney. She also has to come up with money to pay a court appointed guardian ad litem. Actually, his attorney suggested a guardian. We just recently found out that this guardian was a bridesmaid in his attorneys wedding, so they are obviously great friends. I am sorry, I don't know that I truly trust this arrangement.

Bottom line is that Michael Ray Kirby of Gaston SC is a violent man. He beats, spits on and threatens women. He is an alcoholic. With our failed legal system, he has managed to escape prosecution for every single thing he has done. It is only a matter of time before someone ends up dead because of Mr. Kirby, by his hand or because of his drunk driving.

It is time for South Carolina to take a firm stand against domestic violence!!!

Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Marsha Woods

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