

On October 28, 2017, I was 15 years old and shopping for a Halloween costume at Forever 21 located inside of Oak Park Mall., in Overland Park, Kansas. I was in the dressing room in a state of undress when I noticed a phone propped up on a pair of jeans angled in a manner that could be used to record me. I quickly snapped a photo of the suspicious phone and redressed. Fast forward to April 2018, Johnson County Detective Kari Hawes had found Anthony DeLapp. He was from Joplin, Missouri a town some 139 miles south of the Kansas City area, he, like many others, travels to commit this kind of crime. Law enforcement obtained a warrant to download his electronic devices. His mobile phone contained over 150 images of women in dressing rooms in varying states of undress and apparently unaware that they were being photographed. From the metadata of the images DeLapp was traveling to other metro areas to commit these crimes. By its statutory language this was not by definition sexually motivated until proven. He hired an expert witness to testify that there was a low to moderate chance of recidivism. In this case he pleaded guilty to the offense in my case and stipulated that it was sexually motivated in exchange for dropping another case against him.

As a teenage girl, my world has forever been changed by this experience. I am now cautious while shopping, and especially when trying on clothing. I am more cautious now because I realize the threat of being unaware. I thought that this was something that only happened in faraway places and to other people. How wrong I was. This hit painfully close to home. I liked being unaware. Unfortunately, there is nothing I can do about that now. The man who committed this crime against me, who violated my personal privacy, who took away my right to be unaware. He has negatively impacted my life forever. In the era of social media, will these pictures ever show up again? I don't know. It would be easier to let this go, or second

guess what that cellphone was actually doing there. Additionally, having the Forever 21 manager tell me that there was nothing I could do was not the right thing to do.

It seems like common sense that taking photos of a 15 year old girl in a state of undress is a sexually motivated crime. Unfortunately, laws regarding privacy have failed to keep pace with the fact that mobile cameras on phones are in nearly everyone's possession. Wiretapping and photographing a person in a state of undress without their consent are not the same thing and should not be treated as such. As cameras get smaller, this will be easier and easier, voting yes on SB 420 will save the next victims from having to sit through a preliminary hearing, listening to the person who violated them hire an expert witness to testify on their behalf that there is a "moderate to low chance of recidivism" only for him to allegedly reoffend the very next day against another 15 year old girl.

The registry is so very important to me as a member of the community, but even more as a teenage girl. Whether I am babysitting for a new family, or getting into an Uber with someone I don't know, I want to be able to trust that people who commit this type of crime are registered to keep our community safe. As parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, think about your loved ones and how you would want their case to be handled.



