

To: House Judiciary Committee
From: James "Pat" Hayes
Date: 08/29/2013

Re: **Testimony in support of the "Hard 50" legislation**

Chairman Kinzer and members of the House Judiciary Committee

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on the "Hard 50" legislation. My name is Pat Hayes and I am the father of Keighley Alyea. I am sharing my testimony in support of this legislation.

First of all, I apologize for not being here in person. However, I felt it necessary to share my views on this matter.

I would like to start, by telling you of my thoughts when I was informed the Johnson County Prosecutors office would be pursuing a "Hard 50" sentence in relation to the murder of my Daughter, Keighley Ann Alyea.

At first I was a little apprehensive, and had some questions. "Why not pursue the Death Penalty?" "How long until they would be eligible for parole?"

The staff of the Prosecutors Office, as well as Mr. Howe, took the time to explain the sentencing guidelines and the aggravating criteria that must be present to pursue the death penalty. They also explained, with a "Hard 50", the sentence must be completed, prior to release. They also explained, in some situations, additional charges add to the back end of that sentence.

As a parent, I felt better knowing the men responsible for killing my daughter, would most likely not be able to harm any other peoples' children in free society.

With my take on the possible change of this law, they would be eligible for parole much sooner. Thus, allowing them access to the very people our judicial system is trying to protect.

It is a grim reality, that we all know, I will never be able to hold my daughter, walk her down the aisle, congratulate her for graduating college, or hold one of her children.

There need not be another family writing a similar letter to you. We have to accept, there will still be crimes and murder. What we don't have to do, is allow known murderers a second chance to repeat their offenses.

Keighley has two young brothers, Joseph and Zach, that should never have to turn around in a store and see the face of her attackers.

My family, as well as others, should not have to monitor parole hearing schedules, and crusade to keep them incarcerated.

In my opinion, the "Hard 50" was the only legal solution to keep them away, and our citizens safer.

I believe it would be a sad day in the State of Kansas, or any other state, when we start reducing sentences and changing sentencing guidelines to anything lesser than what they already are. If our government wants to devote time and money to making changes, they should be driving the other way. Stiffer penalties will make criminals realize they are accountable for their actions.

As a father that knows what an 18 year old girl looks like with 30 stab wounds, I just wonder if another father will have to experience what I have. At the hands of the same attackers.

The Hard 50 was designed to be used in situations of Heinous Criminal Acts, I am not sure what would be a better example.

People murdered, intentionally, in a manner consistent with torture, kidnapping, and armed robbery. Pretty heinous to me. 30 stab wounds to a 120 pound girl, seems somewhat excessive. 3 attackers, all men, and a 18 year old girl. Paints a pretty clear picture to me. Realizing their first attack was not lethal, they decided amongst themselves, to go ahead and murder her anyway.

In my opinion, this is exactly what the Hard 50 was designed for! Unless, of course the Death Penalty becomes a more viable sentence.

*James P Hayes
8/29/2013*

Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

*James "Pat" Hayes, father of Keighley Alyea
p.hayes.safelink@gmail.com*