

Testimony Supporting House Bill 6352: The Dignity at Work Act

Joyce Baldassarre – Survivor of Workplace/Sexual Abuse in no less than 5 jobs.

I have been on the receiving end of workplace bullying and sexual harassment for the past 20 years in EVERY job I have had during that time. I was fired for refusing to go to church with my boss. I had a boss who ONLY communicated with me via email, NEVER verbally. I was fired for being accused of being complicit to a supervisor who allegedly made 2 inappropriate comments to a staff member (comments I never knew about or witnessed) and most recently I spent the past 6 years fighting a sexual harassment claim which I lost because while my co-workers witnessed everything I witnessed, they lied because they feared retaliation. Proof after proof after proof of inappropriate comments by a supervisor and no one did anything. HR did nothing, the EEOC sided with the company because they did a shotty investigation, Corporate Compliance said there was no claim simply because I was the only one who complained, and our mutual supervisor protected him because she needs him. 6 YEARS of having to listen to a pig make one inappropriate comment after another. In the end I received NOTHING for the severe depression, anxiety, and PTSD that I now live with and oh by the way, I still work for the company because at 63 I cannot find another job and why should I? I DID NOTHING WRONG but report a sexual harasser. He of course still has his job and his titles and I had to fight for my job. The damage will never go away. I will be traumatized for the rest of my life because of workplace abusers. How we are not protected boggles my mind and it should boggle yours. It is just like the rape victim being blamed for the rape while the rapist goes about his business like nothing happened.

No one should go into work and be bullied or harassed. We work because we need to make a living and most of the time, we are not getting rich but making our abusers the rich ones. LAWS must be changed to protect people in the workplace and bullies/harassers MUST be held accountable for their actions. I just do not understand why we have to be fighting for this simple concept. Everyone saw what 4 years of bullying got us and none of it was good. Imagine if it were YOUR son or daughter who endured DAILY abuse from an employer, and they did not have the option of just quitting. WE DESERVE BETTER.

House Bill 6352: The Dignity at Work Act MUST be passed in every state in America. It is too long overdue.