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## **STATEMENT OF KATHRYN**

I was 19 years old when I moved from abroad to Los Angeles as a sophomore. I felt *very lucky* to have spent my freshman year of college; exploring the world, other cultures, living amongst people with all sorts of different identities. These were things that nourished my soul. So it was with hesitation that I moved back to the US, and to LA. However, the great Southern Cal weather, architecture school, and new, uplifting community were worth it, I thought. Plus, USC, I was told, was a "*great university*".

I was poor, financially. I know - a lot of you out there are thinking, "What, you went to USC ...how can you be 'poor'?" Let me just tell you, I had partial academic scholarship, and I'm still paying off undergrad loans!... but back to the story ... I was on my own, far from my family; I trusted USC, as an institution, like a family member, in all regards - safety while on campus, quality professors, good curriculum ...all the basic things young people expect when they attend a university of USC's supposed caliber. So when I went to my first gynecological exam that fall, I also thought I could trust the doctor providing medical services. I mean, *who would doubt* that one could trust a *medical professional*, right? And one working as *the only full time gynecologist at a major university*, at that? *Who would ever think, that a doctor would abandon the main guiding principle of any*

*healthcare provider ...that of "primum non nocere", or "first, do no harm"?* I've since learned that this guiding principle is broken every day in so many ways across so many circumstances. And I find it ironic that doctors are having their licenses revoked simply for opting to use natural medicine, instead of patented chemicals, to help people achieve better health, or simply to compare the health of unvaccinated to vaccinated children, who are all their own patients - pretty ironic when a doctor is allowed, knowingly, to continue to give students gynecological exams after he's been accused, by multiple women, of sexual assault or misconduct *for decades*.

In fact, my ignorance of what a gynecology exam should have been, combined with my trust in USC and in medical professionals, in general, set the stage for what happened to me under the care of George Tyndall and USC. You see, I didn't know that a gynecologist wasn't supposed to have a lengthy sit-down-warm-up-talk-session before the exam, where he, among other things, compared me (I'm half Asian) to his Asian wife. I thought, way back then, that this doctor was just trying to be nice and make me feel good or special, *in a very weird and creepy way*. I didn't know what was appropriate or inappropriate touching, or that when my doctor said he needed to take photos of my netherworld at the end of the exam, when no one else was in the room, that this was *not* an acceptable medical standard, even though I did find it odd that he backed up far enough to get my entire body in the photos.

It really grosses me out as I'm sure it does all of us sharing in this conference here today, and for every person out there who has suffered any kind of sexual abuse, to think about all this today. I'd like to know where those photos

went. And who, specifically, at USC knew about all this from other women's complaints that were filed even prior to my experience, all the way up to a few years ago!

I'm relaying my experience publicly because I want other women - and men- to be aware of these things - to teach their children, and other children, about what a gynecology exam *should* entail, or about what *any* normal experience should be, whether it's walking down the street or working any job, anywhere, *devoid of sexual harassment or abuse*. Only when we stand up and say enough is enough, only when we *work* for justice for victims of sexual abuse, only when we demand that large institutions (or small institutions)/or corporate entities/or government agencies be held accountable for their actions - *only then will things change*. Covering up Truth ...so the accepted status quo can continue to disenfranchise or injure people ...*should not be an option, regardless of what the issue is!*

While I don't feel there's a way to really put monetary value on the pain and suffering endured from being sexually abused and then silently and even subconsciously living out the consequences of the abuse for over twenty years, this day is a starting place, somewhat of a central node from which healing can occur, and hopefully it's enough of a consequence for an institution like USC to prevent them, or any other entity, from tolerating violence towards women under their roof.

Growing the awareness of these types of atrocities is a large part of healing and of cultural change - not only for me personally, but also for our society as a

whole. This is *not* the only large sexual abuse case of this type to go through the court system in the last few years, and while the ability to finally hold aggressors accountable is welcome, this all reflects a *deep sickness* in our society that we all have to live with, whether we ourselves experience sexual abuse, or it's our mothers, sisters, daughters, wives, friends, or neighbors.

I would really like to focus, in this moment, on growing our awareness, so that we do not become aggressors or perpetrators, nor victims of such, so that we all live more peacefully together with all life on this planet, as the most evolved species we tell ourselves we are.

KATHRYN

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