Statement of Linda Ridgeway Whitedeer

In the very early 70's, the William Morris Agency submitted me for one of my first film roles. When I arrived at the studio for my audition, I was greeted by Bill Cosby. He pointed over to the director (who waived at us) and said "He's in the middle of a take, so I will interview you and we can use the director's office." When he opened the office door there was an office chair that had rollers, facing the door, right in the way so I couldn't pass. He seemed to be in a big hurry all of a sudden, and making a grand gesture with his right arm he loudly said "Have a seat!"

So I plopped down and became pre-occupied with positioning my purse on my lap and while still clutching the handle of my portfolio, was trying to grasp the handles of the chair. My eyes were still focused down as I was about to swirl the chair to the right and use my feet to simply walk the chair over to the desk so I could read for the part.

I never got to move the chair.

By the time I looked up, somehow Cosby's right hand grabbed me by my hair at the back of my neck as the sexual assault began. He had surprise on his side.

All I had on my side was shock followed by a sickening humiliation that he gloated over.

He had planned it. I didn't have a chance. This is beyond physical injury. You can't stitch this up and put a Band-Aid on it.

I didn't report the assault because I was afraid of what might happen to me if I did go to law enforcement at that time.

My presence here today is to show my appreciation to all of those who managed to get this bill to pass unanimously and in such a timely manner for future generations. Hopefully it will be a deterrent.

I support SB 813 and hope that Governor Jerry Brown Jr. will sign this bill so that victims in California, will finally have ample time to come forward, so they won't be emotionally destroyed in the legal process.

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September 6, 2016
Represented by Attorney Gloria Allred

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