

Good morning, and thank you Chairwoman Maloney and the Committee for holding this important roundtable on an issue that directly impacts myself, those present, and women across the country – who hold over 50% of American jobs.

I wish I didn't have to be here sharing personal and intimate details about my life. Information that I would never have shared but is now public knowledge and can be easily searched on the internet. I wish I didn't have to speak with The Washington Post for there to be any sort of public investigation into the misconduct at the Washington Football Team. I wish that when I reported my experiences to the team and to the NFL that there would have been change and accountability. But at this point my options have been exhausted, and that's led me here to reveal truths and details once again about myself and my experience working at the Washington Football Team.

81% of women have reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment and/or assault in their lifetime. I wish I didn't become part of that statistic at my place of employment.

I worked at the Washington Football Team for 8 years, and I cannot recall a time that I didn't experience or fear sexual harassment. It was a pervasive part of the culture, an unavoidable rite of passage of being a woman who worked there. Working for the team was my first full-time job out of college. I was so excited to start working for the team I grew up watching and cheering for. I experienced many work "firsts" there. First bonus. First promotion. First office potluck. First employee hire. First threat of physical violence by a supervisor. First hostile work environment. First public humiliation. First sexual assault.

When I initially reported sexual harassment to my boss, I was terrified. I was only twenty-four, and the man who sexually harassed me was not only old enough to be my father, he was also considered the "voice" of the team in the public sphere. To me, the power he held in his position and his relationship with Dan Snyder was enough to reconsider saying anything. At the time, I didn't know that 55% of victims experience retaliation after speaking up or making a claim. I decided to tell my boss about my harasser's public comments about my appearance and his unwanted kisses on the cheek and the emails about "special gifts" he expected from me. When I told my boss, we agreed that nothing would happen if I reported it to the person supposedly doing HR, and so my boss called my harasser and told him to leave me alone. I was in the room when the phone call happened. I distinctly remember hearing the harasser through the phone yelling, "what the fuck is she thinking!?" Fearing further harassment and retaliation, I took to hiding from him at public events and strategically placing myself between colleagues so he couldn't get near me. I felt humiliated to have to hide in plain sight in front of my colleagues, and frustrated that I should have to avoid company functions for fear that I would experience harassment again. Most of all, it made me feel worthless. All the hard work I put into my work and the team, and I was reduced to my appearance and not my value as an employee.

The second time I decided to report harassment was with the arrival of a new executive team that was specifically hired to help change the business. I told them about the public comments about my appearance, the unwanted kisses on the cheek, the email ... as well as the time at training camp I was sexually assaulted by the same man I previously reported. Those executives were appalled at my treatment and had good intentions to effect change, but they were all fired within six months. After they were fired, reportedly because the old guard at the Washington Football Team did not want change, I felt like I had zero protection. I didn't want to go back to avoiding people, events, and even my

job in order to keep away from this harasser, so I resigned from my position without another job lined up.

It is my sincere hope that Congress will hold the Washington Football Team and the NFL accountable for creating and maintaining a toxic workplace culture for so long, and for burying the results of the 10-month investigation that would reveal exactly what happened and who was responsible. The twenty-year reign of team owner Dan Snyder, an era permeated with bullying, verbal abuse, sexual harassment and sexual assault, has unfortunately been given the NFL stamp of approval.

I and many other brave individuals came forward to share our experiences and actively participate in the investigation we believed would be fair and transparent. It was not. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell used us and the investigation to make it seem like he cared about this issue, but then blamed us for not receiving or releasing a report.

Let's be very clear: The people that I know who participated in the investigation wanted and expected a report. There must be transparency. Only then can we have real accountability.

This is not just about the Washington Football Team and its employees. It's about the millions of women in workplaces across the country who endure harassment every day. It's about the message that the NFL sent to American women everywhere when it brushed aside the victims who came forward, and embraced Dan Snyder. That message was, we do not care about you and your experiences do not matter.

We are now here before Congress, once again telling our stories. I look forward to seeing what message Congress will send to workplaces and women all across America.

Thank you.