

Hello, my name is Claire Hunt. I am a workplace bullying expert. I have written over 100 pages about workplace bullying in an essay published on my website, and I have a YouTube channel about workplace bullying with almost 200 videos and over 2,000 subscribers. I am testifying in support of House bill H8044, the Workplace Psychological Safety Act. I am from Texas, I am 49 years old, and, for over 30 years, I have been bullied. I have been bullied in almost every job I have ever had. I have been called every name in the book to my face, and I'm sure that pales in comparison to what bullies have said about me behind my back. I have been accused of things I did not do. And I have been stalked and physically assaulted by a former coworker.

As a result of the abuse, I have resigned myself to a diminished, impoverished quality of life. In 30+ years I have managed to scrape together an average annual income of only about \$20,000 and accumulated about \$300,000 in debt. If it had not been for my family, I would have died decades ago. I've lived for decades with symptoms of CPTSD: major depressive disorder, anxiety, eating disorders, alcoholism, pill abuse, self-mutilation, sleep disturbances, digestive problems, and two suicide attempts. It is now painfully clear to me that I will never find a job without bullying. Every year, I remove something from my bucket list – as I increasingly accept that my humble dreams will never materialize. I never asked for very much from this life, but I thought I had at least a basic human right to a job where I was left alone to work in peace. I guess I was wrong.

The problem is that I am not unintelligent or a bad person. I have an above-average IQ. I have two degrees. My skill set may not be spectacular, but I think I have at least something to contribute. Like a lot of targets of workplace bullying, I am smart, creative, and intuitive, with bright, original ideas for products and services that could be making all of our lives better as we speak, and, yet, the public is being denied what we have to offer – and because of nothing but the pathological jealousy of a bunch of sick, disgusting narcissists. It has not been a good life, but, when I die, I know I will die with my integrity and with the knowledge that I am a better person than anyone who ever bullied me.

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