

### **Courtney Kemp's Written Statement:**

**Good morning. My name is Courtney Kemp and I am from Jonesville, LA. My husband is Roy Wyatt Kemp, one of the 11 men killed on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig that exploded on April 20, 2010. On behalf of my husband and my family I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak with you regarding issues in the oil and gas industry.**

**My husband and I have two precious daughters; Kaylee, 3 and Maddison, 4 months. Our girls will only know what a wonderful father they had by the stories we tell them. While I understand companies must make a profit, I do not believe it should be at the expense of risking lives and destroying families. I am asking you to please consider harsh punishments on companies who choose to ignore safety standards before other families are destroyed. I am not here today to suggest that Congress implement more safety regulations but rather to encourage you to hold companies accountable for safety regulations all ready in place and merely neglected. If proper safety procedures had been taken on the Deepwater Horizon, it is my firm belief that this tragic accident would have been prevented and my husband and the others would be alive today.**

**It is no secret that the oil spill has affected the environment. One can see the devastation that is happening to the coast line and magnitude of its effects on the seafood industry in general. However, our state has overcome many adversities in the past including numerous weather related issues such as hurricanes and droughts. We as Americans are strong people and will recover from this tragedy as well.**

**America is a rich nation regarding natural resources, but in my opinion we have become too dependent upon foreign imports, this includes oil. While we realize we are suffering from economic impacts resulting from the leaking oil it would be even more devastating if you allow drilling in the gulf to cease. If drilling ceases not only would off shore employees lose their jobs, but the trickle down effect would be devastating not only to the coastal states, but eventually to the entire country. You must not allow this to happen. Drilling in the gulf must continue.**

I would also like to speak with the members of Congress about one of the many acts of Congress that may have a negative effect on my family's future. The Death on The High Seas Act is an antiquated Act of Congress, passed in 1920, which spells out the losses that the family of a person who suffers wrongful death on the high seas may recover.

DOSHA is a comprehensive act that limits allowable damages for deaths occurring on the high seas. This act does not permit the applications of state wrongful death remedies. It does not look to General Maritime Law to supplement the act's limitations.

In essence, the act limits the liability of the wrongdoers in this matter such as BP, Transocean and many others.

My family can never and will never be adequately compensated for our loss. What I am seeking is accountability from the wrongdoers who caused this terrible tragedy.

I ask that the members of Congress use this catastrophe as a basis to revisit and amend this outdated Act from 1920. Revise DOSHA with 21<sup>st</sup> century standards and realities in mind.

Please use this opportunity to make corporate America more responsible and accountable. Require corporate wrongdoers to fully, fairly, and adequately compensate the victims of senseless accidents.

Thank You