Statement of Stefanie, a parent of a student at Los Osos High School

On August 24, 2021, the life of my daughter, and many of her friends and teammates was irrevocably changed. The actions of the individual who secretly videotaped the girls violated these young women and has caused enormous pain and suffering. To add insult to injury, this violation happened over the course of what could potentially be numerous years and went undetected during that entire period of time. How could something so egregious happen at a school where students should have been safe and where rules should have been in place to ensure that these young women were protected in their most vulnerable state, undressing in what they thought was a private space? When this individual was arrested, why didn’t the school take swift action to ensure clear direction and expectations were set forth for students, staff and teachers to act with integrity and empathy towards these impacted individuals? Instead, the school allowed taunting, chanting, bullying and shaming to go unchecked for days, despite parents’ outrage at their inaction.

Parents have so many questions that remain unanswered, and while we understand that this is an ongoing investigation, our kids are forced to contend with the heartbreaking emotional turmoil of the unknowns. Are they on the videos? How will victims be identified and notified? Were these videos distributed
or sold? But in the face of what could potentially be a long investigation, more than anything, the school must be held accountable for their actions and inaction. These young women must receive the reassurance that they will be protected from further abuse, bullying and embarrassment. For the victims and potential victims, my heart goes out to you all. I will continue to pray for justice to be served and for you all to find peace.

Stefanie
Parent of a Student at Los Osos High School
September 8, 2021