Testimony of Brad Hotchkiss
In Support of HB 5473 AN ACT CONCERNING ACTIONS TO RECOVER DAMAGES FOR THE SEXUAL ABUSE, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OR SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A MINOR
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing, March 17, 2010

Dear Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and members of the committee,

I am writing in support of HB 5473. My reasons are as follows:

I am a survivor of childhood sexual assault by a family member, commonly know as incest. The short version of my story is that an older male cousin sexually abused me from 2nd grade through my senior year of high school. He managed to do this by separating me from my family emotionally and spiritually from a very young age. He also manipulated me into believing that I was responsible so that going to my other family members for help was not a possibility.

From the time I was 13 until I was 30 years old, I used alcohol to dull my senses, therefore my feelings of pain and anguish.

At 30 years old, I stopped using alcohol. The pain, anguish and confusion of my entire life overtook me. I began to have flashbacks, debilitating loss of energy and came near to losing my job. Fortunately, as a result of having been a valued and responsible employee, I was able to tell my foreman that something was wrong and that I needed time to work it out.

After four years of counseling, I was strong enough to disclose to my immediate family. Because of their support, I felt strong enough to pursue legal action after five years of counseling.

What monetary value do you put on time lost from 2nd grade until 30 years old, stolen innocence, lost childhood, separation from family, inability to trust at the deepest levels or form functional relationships.

I did pursue a civil case; however my perpetrator had no money. My feeling of completion was to have my perpetrator take responsibility for his actions and for me to get rid of my false feelings of responsibility.

I was fortunate that my realization came at 30 years old, and I was able to move forward a lot sooner than most. Please understand, under the current statute of limitations, if a person doesn't have their realization until their early forties or later, and it takes them 10 years recover to the point that they can confront their perpetrator legally, their recovery will be incomplete.

Thank you,

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