

5473

Kathryn Robb

To: the Connecticut Judiciary Committee
From: Kathryn Robb

At a very young age and for almost six years, I was repeatedly molested and sexually assaulted. My abuser was not a priest, nor a rabbi, nor a teacher. In fact, my abuser was not connected to any institution, religious or otherwise. My abuser was a family member.

As a victim of sexual abuse by a family member, deeper more emotionally intricate boundaries were violated. Since it occurred in the home, there was no safe place to turn. I experienced a repeated nightmare as a child – in my dream after I told my mother my home would burn down. Silence became the walls of the hole I sank into for some small semblance of safety. I could not tell my ugly secret to my parents, my teachers or any adult I was told I could trust. Statistics clearly suggest that well over 56% of child sexual assault victims are abused by family members. Some studies suggest the number is even higher. It took me years, well into my adulthood, to recognize that there was a slow menacing bleed in me. I could not speak about it publicly until I was in my forties. And even more time to muster up the courage to look at and acknowledge my ugly wound. This painful, afraid and humiliated silence caged me and allowed my perpetrator to hide behind an archaic statute of limitations. It took me years to find the courage to tell anyone.

Raised Bill number 5473 is not about the bank account of the Catholic Church, or any other religious institution. The bill is about giving victims, like me, a voice; the voice of a little girl who was repeatedly silenced and muffled by fear, embarrassment, shame and unspeakable pain, and a bill that will expose countless sexual predators.

Please support Raised Bill 5473. My abuser is still out there, like thousands of others protected by an archaic SOL. Raised Bill number 5473 gives victims a voice, will help expose sexual perpetrators, and will help protect children from these hidden dangers. Be courageous; protect children, not predators. Thank you.