March 17, 2010

Greetings Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, & members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am Leona Mae Page and I am writing to express my **support for raised House Bill Number 5473 AN ACT CONCERNING ACTIONS TO RECOVER DAMAGES FOR THE SEXUAL ABUSE, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OR SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A MINOR.**

I wish to focus my comments on the impact this bill would have on current cases involving repeat offenders. When former victims learn of repeat offenses by their perpetrators, this bill would allow their voices to be heard where currently their voices are minimized or silenced by statute.

I endured countless acts of sexual violence at the hands of my father from infancy to puberty. The Department of Children & Youth Services (DCYS) – now renamed Department of Children & Families (DCF) – was involved, supervised visitation was ordered for a time, but nothing meaningful was done to limit or prevent my father's access to me and other child victims.

That was from 1971 to 1983 when the statute of limitations was five years, or until 1988.

In 1988, I was 17 years old.

I eventually gained enough confidence in myself and stability in my life to begin the lifelong process of recovering from the effects of a childhood riddled with incest.

But not before my seventeenth birthday.

On May 30, 2001, a police detective came to my home to request a statement from me because of current accusations of sexual violence by my father committed against two child relatives: a three-year-old girl and a five-year-old boy.

I became involved in every way possible including giving a detailed statement of the violence I had experienced decades earlier at the still-violent hands of my father.

<u>statute of limitations</u>

my jaw still aches
my neck still stiffens
bile still rises in my throat
to hold the fullness of your erect penis
in my little girl mouth

the terror within
is still alive enough
to be triggered at the mention
of your continued existence

terror to that extent
does not come with any
statute of limitations

Why should its recovery?

Sincerely,
Leona Mae Page

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