

My name is Michael Casey. I'm here today to offer testimony IN FAVOR of S. B. 3. I was born into the traditional strict Irish Catholic Family. Going to Sunday Mass and observing holy days of obligation. My parents sacrificed to send me and my siblings to Catholic School believing that we would receive a far superior education. In fourth grade almost every boy in the class showed up after school to volunteer to be altar boys. A duty the majority if not all took seriously. It was in 1982 while in 7th grade I suddenly found myself being molested by a catholic priest. The next year and a half was a living nightmare. This priest had access to me anytime he liked and would regularly pull me out of classes under the guise that he needed an altar boy to serve at a funeral or some other fictitious reason. After graduating 8th grade in 1983 the abuse stopped. During the summer of 1983 I began setting fires to garbage cans and dumpster. This behavior continued until I was 19. Needless to say this also began multiple experiences with our juvenile and adult criminal justice systems. After the fire setting stopped I struggled with intimate relationships and continue to do so to this day. Why did I never seek to file suit in the past? I struggled with this every day as my faith and filing a lawsuit against The Catholic Church were in conflict and contrary to my upbringing that religious figures such as priests could do no wrong. Recently, the Hartford archdiocese released the names of 48 priests who had credible sexual abuse accusations made by other victims. My abuser was one of those 48. Upon reading that list it opened up wounds that I thought I had dealt with years ago. Since the publishing of these names I am having sleep issues, am irritable, I experience erratic mood swings and regularly have nightmares. I'm angry that the Catholic Church was well aware of my abusers history even going so far as to send him for treatment in Massachusetts. Yet, they still placed this same priest in charge of youth ministries at my parish. I respectfully request that this committee pass S.B. 3 and allow me to pursue legal action if I decide to do so. I thank you for your time and will answer any questions you may have.

Michael Casey
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