

## Peterson, Bobbye

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**From:** Gail Howard <pennyq99@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 19, 2019 7:31 PM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Subject:** SB3

Dear CGA Judiciary Committee,

I am a survivor of childhood clergy sexual abuse and co-leader of the Connecticut Chapter of SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests. I facilitate a monthly support group for CT survivors. I also have contact information for 75 survivors who have come forward since the Chapter was founded in 2003.

As you craft this legislation, I can assure you that survivors of childhood clergy sexual abuse carry the wounds they suffered for a lifetime. While well intentioned, the statute of limitations that allows for civil suits until the victim reaches age 48 does not reflect the reality of sexual abuse survival.

Since the PA Grand Jury report came out last August, I have received calls from 18 CT survivors of childhood clergy sex abuse who had never come forward before. Of these 18, only a few were under age 48 when they called me. All 18 have suffered a lifetime of guilt, shame and self-doubt. Some have been successful in their careers despite these burdens, but many have struggled to support themselves, often fighting drug addiction and alcoholism.

Connecticut should join the many other states who have eliminated the statute of limitation for civil cases as well as for prosecution of criminal cases. As expert after expert has attested, memories of trauma don't fade. We wish they would, but they don't.

If it is too late to stand up for yourself in a court of law, then it should be too late to suffer. But the suffering goes on.

Thank you for considering my point of view.

Sincerely,

Gail Howard  
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