

**Public Testimony In Support of**  
**S.B. 3: An Act Combating Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment**  
Lynn Laperle, Brooklyn CT  
4/1/2019

My name is Lynn Laperle and I am from Brooklyn CT. I am here today in support of **S.B. 3: An Act Combating Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment** because I am a survivor of multiple sexual assaults. I also have first-hand knowledge in regards to the devastating consequences that the statute of limitations can have on an individual when they are finally able to come forward and speak about the crimes committed against them.

I was just a child the first time I was sexually assaulted. My fear of the unknown and what could potentially be done to me was more frightening than my abusers at that time. So I learned to live with the associated shame of what was happening to me and ended up being forced into years of silence.

I didn't come forward until I was 30 years old when one of my abusers was arrested for molesting a little girl in 1994. It was only then that I realized I was not the only one that had been sexually assaulted by this person and made the decision to put my fears aside and go to the police.

It had taken a lot of courage for me to come forward to help this little girl. I had to tell complete strangers intimate and embarrassing details of what my abuser did to me and I was afraid for my life once he found out that I had told on him. So you can only imagine how disappointed and disgusted I was to hear that this abuser would get nothing but a slap on the wrist because of the statute of limitations and the fact that he didn't go far enough with that one little girl.

I had put my life on the line with an extremely violent person. My life would never be the same now that people knew my darkest secrets and he only got probation and mandatory counseling because of a "technicality". In my eyes, he was being rewarded by our justice system for successfully intimidating all of his victims. Because we feared him - he was going to get away with it. I lost any faith I had in the justice system on that day.

And, that is why I am here today. I really wanted you to know what it feels like to be me. I will never know what it is like to live without the long term effects of the traumatic experiences caused by my abusers. The images that I have included in my speech were drawn for me and represent my both my past and current daily life struggles. Please take a look; because this is what I deal with while one of my abusers got let off on a "technicality".

As you can see, I was given a life sentence - not by my choice. Yet, an abuser can get to live out their life without any consequences if enough "TIME" passes since the crime was committed.

When someone knowingly commits a crime, they knowingly accept the risks that go along with it. "TIME" should never be used to diminish that crime or that risk.

Instead, "TIME" should be used for survivors to process the traumatic events, reduce their fears and shame, build up self-esteem and empower themselves so they can come forward knowing that their bravery will not be diminished due to a technicality of not healing in time.

Please **Give Victims Time**. Thank you.

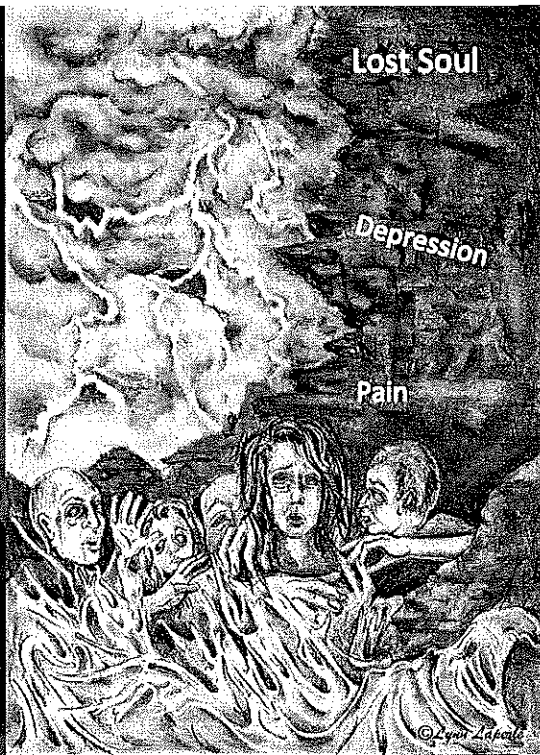


Childhood Memories

Broken

Shame

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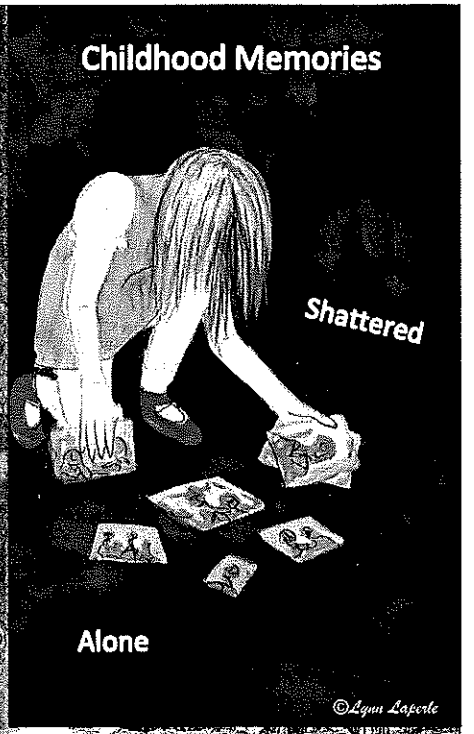


Lost Soul

Depression

Pain

© Lynn Laporte



Childhood Memories

Shattered

Alone

© Lynn Laporte



Fighting to Survive

Discouraged

Exhausted

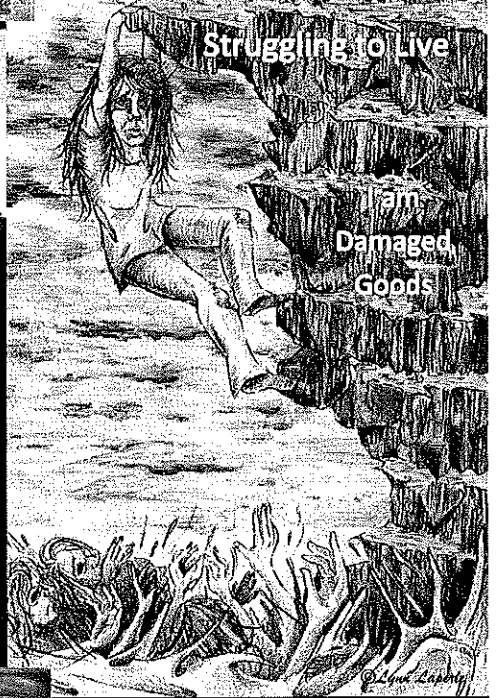
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Childhood Memories

Fear & Intimidation

© Lynn Laporte



Struggling to Live

I am Damaged Goods

© Lynn Laporte



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Realization & Acceptance

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**FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN**

No one will ever **BELIEVE** me

No one will ever **WANT** me

People who don't know will **JUDGE** me

Lynn Laperle  
aka Skylar L. Vonn