

Kerry Visone
Cromwell, CT
Revisions to Bill #: S.B. 3

Good Morning Chairmen and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Kerry Visone, of Cromwell, CT, and I agree with and support revisions to **S.B. No. 3 AN ACT COMBATting SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT**.

For 22 years, I kept a secret. It was a painful secret, and I was so ashamed of what had happened to me, that I did not tell those closest to me, including my husband. I did confide in my best friend the day after this event occurred, but I made her promise never to speak of it again, and she complied. That is, until October of 2017, when I became so anxiety-ridden by the online posts of women under the umbrella of the #MeToo movement, that I finally shared my secret with my husband. This unburdening began a long and painful road of disclosure to family and friends, along with healing and rebuilding.

As difficult as it is to admit in a room full of strangers, in the summer of 1995, close to my 19th birthday, I was raped.

For so many years, I could not process this trauma, and, so, I pushed the memory as far back from the front of my mind as I could. I have come to learn, through support of loved ones and therapy, that this trauma manifested itself in many ways. For me, I have struggled with issues of extreme anxiety, panic attacks, depression, anger management issues, control issues, to name just a few. The trauma has fundamentally affected who I am as a person.

It took a long time to get to where I am now--able to speak about this damaging event publicly, and I now see the full effect of the trauma on me and my family. For 23 years now, the individual who caused all of this pain has lived a life free of accountability. During my healing process, I wrote to the person who is responsible, and the email I received in reply indicated that this person would need to live with what he did for the rest of his life. Whereas, there is some consolation in this response, legally, there is nothing that I can do to hold this person accountable for causing so much pain.

That is, *unless you give me the opportunity . . .*

You have the power to give me a chance--that is all I ask: for a chance--to hold this person accountable, legally, in a court of law, for raping me and hurting me.

In Senate Bill 3, there is a "look-back" provision that will allow past victims to pursue justice for sexual assault, even if the statute of limitations has expired. This is a welcome concept and will rightly help so many victims who have been silenced for so many years due to both the trauma and the inability of the legal system to intervene. However, it will not help me, as written, since I was not a "minor" in the eyes of the law when I was raped in the summer of my 19th birthday. In spite of what the law says, I was a scared teenager living at home with my parents, in between my freshman and sophomore years of college. I did not know what to do. I was petrified of what people, including the important adults in my life, would think of me. So, I survived by repressing

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and ignoring my pain. In the five short years that followed, the statute of limitations expired on my situation, and there was no longer any legal recourse for me to pursue.

I am asking you to extend the age window for the "look-back" period to include young women like I was. So many young women are raped during their college years. I ask that you include me and all of them in this important provision. Consider extending the age to 25 years old. Or, perhaps, it could be extended to 30 years old. Whatever the compromise, *please* give me a chance to hold the person responsible for raping me accountable for all the pain that his selfish actions have caused.

Thank you.