

Roberta DiMezza

From: David Finch <traxiussorrowman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 10:26 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Attn Julie Casmiro and committee

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

40 plus years ago my sisters and I were horribly abused. We all made it out alive, but we feared for our lives every day of that 13-year ordeal. Making it out alive does not mean we walked away clean. We were damaged goods. We were broken, and it has taken the span of our lives to heal from the damage that was done.

No one served even one day for what was done to us. There was no reparations. There was only silence when there should have been an outcry.

The abuse we endured was physical, psychological, neglectful, and designed to make us feel inhuman and worthless. Many people in the town saw some of what was going on and knew something was wrong, but they did not realize the full extent of what was happening in our broken household.

I have been asked to make a victim statement, but I choose to make a survivors statement. Lori, Lisa, and I survived. We survived 13 plus years of torture, dehumanization and lived an abject existence at the hands of our abusers. Did we get treated as less than human? Yes we did. Did we exist as slaves for our abusers amusement? Yes we did. But after all of it, we survived.

Justice and closure, everything is about justice and closure these days. I would love to see justice served for what happened to us as children but that is not meant to be. The only closure that we will get is seeing this law getting passed. Our closure will be to see other victims get their day in court so they can face their abusers and tell the world what they did and hopefully get some measure of justice.

When I was rescued I did not speak about what had been done to me or my sisters in that house. I tried to be "normal" in a world where I did not even know what normalcy was. I tried to live that way until I no longer could, I paid a steep emotional price for that neglect. By the time I came forward and told a psychologist what had been done to me I was 22 and the statute of limitations of 3 years had expired. My sisters and I had no chance at justice. Passing this law will change that for a new generation of children.

This proposed law is not about Democrats or Republicans. It is not about blue states vs red states. It is about being human. This is not a political issue; it is about recognizing that we need to say, "No more!" We can no longer turn a blind eye towards our youth. We need to put laws on the books that protect the most vulnerable of us all, our children.

No child deserves to be abused.

All children deserve a chance at justice.

Please vote yes on HB-7168 also known as Harter's Law.

Please help give the Harter children closure.

Please help all abused children.

David L H Finch

Author of Here There Be Monsters

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/196050519X>