

Good afternoon. Thank you all for hearing and reading everyone's statements today. I am writing in favor of this bill. It was not until I read "Here There be Monsters" that I realized how cruel this world could be. It was like, once you search on the internet you get all this information on that topic. After reading this book I am seeing increased cases of child abuse. Coming from a completely different life I never imagined something like this was possible. I am sure that is why so many people did not understand it as it was. How could anybody possibly do bad things to innocent children? Reality is that what they do? This world is nowhere near where it should be. As I tried to put my mind around a situation like this, I have a challenging time comprehending it. As I look around and see that some of the children we grew up with as adults I see some who did well, I also see those who ended up having substance abuse problems. I see people who have committed suicide. All this- why? Because of something no one ever knew anything about. Abused children are groomed to keep it to themselves in fear of the repercussions. That is why we did not know about it. The few lucky ones may be able to get through life without letting it destroy them. There are so many who are not so lucky. There are so many who self-medicate just to get through life. Out of those many only a percentage actually get into therapy. Therapy to finally realize that it was not their fault so that they may realize that they have the power as adults. When they finally get the courage to talk about it so they may change their life. Why should it be too late for them to do anything about it? Three years is nothing, 35 years will give them the time and courage they need to face their abuser. In closing, I am asking you to pass the HB-7168 Harter's Law. We are the people. You the legislators. You are the House to protect them from the home that failed them. You can protect the children when they grow into adults to give them a courageous voice during their own healing time. It is unjust for a law to say that 3 years is enough time to heal just enough to speak out. The power is in your hands. Help the powerless. That is the reason you are sitting in the seats that you are in. Children are our future; they will make the world so please stop making the world make them. Put the smallest state in the union on the map. Make Rhode Island the first state to give abused children the voice the need to be as adults that were taken away as children. Thank you for your time.

Julie Minda

Cranston,RI