

West Greenwich  
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*Town of West Greenwich*  
INCORPORATED 1741

RICHARD N. RAMSAY, CHIEF OF POLICE

April 29, 2024

Representative Robert Craven  
Chairperson House Judiciary  
Statehouse  
82 Smith Street  
Providence RI 02903

RE: Bill Number 2024-H 7168 Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure – Procedure Generally-  
Casuse of Action.

Dear Chairperson Craven:

I am writing to voice my support for the bill referenced above, which will establish "Harter's Law" extending the civil statute of limitation for injuries resulting from first degree child abuse to thirty-five (35) years.

I have thirty-four (34) years in law enforcement, spending my first twenty-three years with the West Warwick Police Department retiring as Deputy Chief in 2012, to take the appointment to Chief of Police in the town of West Greenwich. West Greenwich being the Town the Harter children reportedly endured unspeakable abuse at the hands of their father and step-mother.

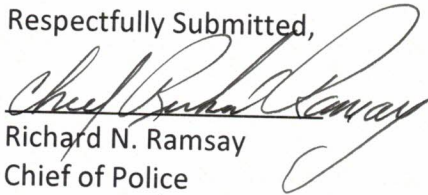
I received a phone call from Mr. David Hater Finch shortly after his book, "Here There Be Monsters" was released, requesting we look into the abuse he and his sister had endured while living in West Greenwich. I was willing to look into the abuse but unfortunately the statute of limitations had expired and I was not able to assist them with a criminal investigation.

However, I was able to speak with some residents of West Greenwich who remembered the Harter's and were able to confirm parts of what was in the book, but I was not able to do a deep dive into the investigation due to the statute of limitations.

It was obvious the criminal justice system failed the Harter Children years ago and now when they have the strength to come forward, I feel we are once again failing them with our current statute of limitations.

Unfortunately, the Harter children are not the only children who have been or will be victims of child abuse. This new statute of limitation will give the criminal justice system the tools we need to assist these victims when they have the strength to come forward with these type allegations.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chief Richard Ramsay", written over a horizontal line.

Richard N. Ramsay  
Chief of Police