

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** David Finch <traxiussorrowman@yahoo.com>  
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**To:** Roberta DiMezza  
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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. It has taken years of our lives to learn to heal from the damage that was inflicted upon us. In fact we are still healing. I expect for me personally it will take the full span of my life.

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 originally intended for this to be a victim statement, but I choose to make a survivors statement instead. 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 was born to be abused. Victims deserve justice. Please vote yes on HB-5177 also known as Harter's Law. With the passage of this law victims of child abuse and will have the means to get recompense for the inevitable mental health issues that were inflicted on them and will continue to arise for the rest of their lives.

Please help give the Harter children closure.

Please help all victims get closure

David L H Finch, Author of Here There Be Monsters

