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Chairman Craven
House Committee on Judiciary
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02906

Chairman Craven and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
Subj: H-5909

Unfortunately I am unable to address the Committee in person as I am traveling out of state but I wish to state my overwhelming support for House Bill H-5909. In my opinion, H-5909 would serve to rectify several issues related to Sexual Abuse and/or Exploitation of a Child and are currently limited by a Statute of Limitations.

I have a personal acquaintance, a close childhood friend, who was the victim of such abuse dating back over half a century. Unfortunately for her, this abuse did not become known until well past the Statute of Limitations due to it having been repressed because of the traumatic effect on her life. The negative impacts only surfaced much later as these memories had been actively pushed out her conscious awareness. When she contacted me at a distance of over 4 decades it had a profound impact on me. Even though we had been very close, she had been able to unconsciously suppress the trauma of the events she had lived through, and it was only through therapy that she was able to recover her memories, deeply disturbing as they were.

Having served in the Navy for almost 23 years, I feel her experiences and their unconscious suppression were similar to those members of the military suffering from PTSD. Trust me, I am very familiar with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in adults and cannot fathom how it negatively affected young children.

One can only imagine how many other children similarly suffered what she lived through and only remember these terrible experiences long after the expiration of the Statue of Limitations?

It is for children such as these, that I respectfully request that this Committee forward this Bill to the Full House for a Vote.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at home: 401-996-4985 or via e-mail: agpalazzo@gmail.com.

Your time and effort in support of this Bill is greatly appreciated.

Very respectfully,

A.G. Palazzo
CDR USN (Ret)

Cc: Members of the House Committee on Judiciary, Speaker Shekarchi,