

Testimony on Childhood Sexual Abuse and Legislative Action

HOUSE BILL # H 7200 – Pasco Troia – I am for the bill.

The Attorney General's Report and Victim Recognition

The Attorney General has released a comprehensive six-year report addressing childhood sexual abuse. While this report is being hailed as a turning point for victims, it is difficult to accept that our recognition comes only now. For over eight years, many victims—including myself—have repeatedly shared our stories, each time causing further emotional distress. Yet it seems that the significance of our experiences is only acknowledged because of the Attorney General's report.

Challenges Faced by Survivors in Legislative Hearings

Last year, during a senate hearing, some survivors were dismissed and their testimonies restricted to just three minutes, simply because the stories were considered repetitive and depressing. Two years ago, following my testimony, I was yelled at by a House member after confronting an attorney who defended insurance companies. Our focus should be on saving innocent victims' souls, not on financial concerns. The church claims that passing this bill would lead to bankruptcy, but in other American institutions, even the suspicion of abuse results in immediate closure. The Roman Catholic Church, however, has never been shut down despite numerous allegations. The reason the church fights this bill is they are hoping in time we victims will die off, and their payments will be at a minimum.

The Church's Response and Global Impact

The church argues that it will close if this bill passes, yet it has committed acts of abuse against children worldwide. Perhaps closure is warranted. Over four billion dollars have been paid to victims, demonstrating the widespread nature of the issue. Children are gifts from God, but the church has harmed those very gifts.

The Church as a Corporation and Responsibility for Abuse

From personal experience, the church operates as a corporation managed by men, not by God. The denial of compensation to abused children is appalling. The church's leadership facilitated the movement of abusive priests from one group of children to another, which is despicable. While the abusive priests are mentally ill, those who enabled their actions are even more culpable and are responsible for running the church.

Faith, Accountability, and Call to Legislative Action

It is impossible to claim belief in God while allowing these injustices to continue. My faith in God is stronger than ever. I encourage you to read my book, "Saving Souls – Breaking the Chains of Abuse," not for personal gain, but to understand the profound impact of child abuse. I pray that God grants wisdom to the members of this panel so they may help adults who suffered abuse as children by voting in favor of this bill.

Author

Pasco Troia – Saving Souls – Breaking the Chains of Abuse