

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** Lisa Harter Pettit <lisaeddington@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 12, 2026 11:21 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Bill # hb7431

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3 years..that's the statue of limitations for felony child abuse..3 years..take me for example as a child of felony child abuse..I didn't know how horribly we were abused.. as a survivor of felony child abuse we were brainwashed and told horrendous things about us every day.. i was told I was retarded..I was fat and ugly..I was told to sleep with the 1st man that lied eyes on me ..and get myself pregnant..so he would have to marry me..I was taught I was useless,stupid,a waste of a human being.i was truly hated because I wasn't her birth child. I left home at 17..I was working at the ww senior center..and saw an add on the bulletin board that an elderly couple was looking to rent out a room..I had made friends with a few kids at the senior center and confided in them about my homelife..they told me about the add .I called the # and arranged to move in..I told my parents and they let me go..the rent was 30\$ a week..when my father and stepmother dropped me off there few days later..my stepmother convinced Mrs parent where I was renting..that I was a bad kid and ate a lot..so she convinced them to raise my rent to 40\$ a week..at the time I was only making 50\$ a week.

So im on my own with very little money at 17..I truly didn't realize how abused we were..I had no social skills, NO confidence ar all and no family to help me..I was truly on my own with no life skills and no confidence..I did make some friends..a friend taught me how to dance...another how to put on makeup..it was all a tough and fun sometimes learning experience..I had no idea what it was like to have life skills and be " normal" at all ,I was so awkward..it took me until I was at least 30 to try to understand how abused I was..and seek counseling..I tried to bury my abusive past for many years..too many years..I was and still am having nightmares about my childhood..I have ptsd..anxiety and panic attacks because of my abusive childhood..still to this day at 61..it still affects my everyday life..so please tell me you think a 3 year statue of limitations..is logical? 3 years? There is No way a survivor of felony child abuse can face their abusers in court within 3 years..being a survivor of felony child abuse..it is a lifetime sentence for me and others survivor's..I will never stop having nightmares about my childhood,I will never not have ptsd from what was done to me..I will never not have anxiety..3 years statue of limitations is not at all equal to a lifetime of suffering for survivors..please pass harters law bill hb 7431 extend the statue of limitations on felony child abuse..please give the survivor's enough time to heal and face their abusers in court.

Thank you Lisa Harter Pettit