

April 17, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly advocate for reform of the SOL laws in New York. As a victim/survivor of child sexual abuse that took place in Lindenhurst on Long Island, I have experienced the effects of the abuse for over 40 years. It took me 25 years to get the courage to name my abuser. Victims have suffered tremendously from an inability to heal and seek justice from crimes committed against them.

Currently I live in Connecticut where the SOL for child sexual abuse is "better" than most states allowing a civil suit 30 years from the age of 18. However even this is inadequate in terms of discovering evidence as in the case of Dr. Reardon. Evidence was uncovered recently years that he had 50,000 slides and 100 movie reels of child pornography collected when he was practicing at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. There have been over 135 people who have brought suit against St. Francis however some are now well past 48 years old have no recourse for the terrible abuse they suffered as children.

I am one of the survivors who did not remember being molested in 1960-62 until the late 1980's. There are many of us who did not have the memory, felt guilty or shame or didn't have the courage to speak about the abuse until well into our 30's, 40's, 50's, or 60's. Whether we remembered or not the trauma still affects our lives. There are so many needing help and justice.

It is time to reform SOL in all states. We need to follow the example of Delaware that abolished the SOL for child sexual abuse. The state of New York needs to pass the Markey/Duane Bill extending the SOL and creating a "window" so that perpetrators can be exposed and survivors can have their day in court. Let us finally do what is right to protect children.

Sincerely,

Beth A. McCabe

Survivor, Co-Leader Connecticut SNAP