

March 25th, 2009

Dear Legislator:

What would you do if you found out that your son or daughter was abused by a pedophile when they were a child?

My son was sexually abused when he was a child. He never told me or his father of the abuse. He kept silent. My son kept quiet because his abuser threatened to kill me and his sister if he told us, so he kept this terrible secret to himself. Prior to the sexual abuse, my son was a happy, healthy and innocent child. He was violently forced into a first sexual encounter. This violation robbed my child of his innocence, normal childhood and trust in adults.

The hardest part for me was not knowing what was troubling my child. For about 20 years, I have watched him self destruct without knowing why or how to help him.

He came forward at the age of 31 and the secret of his tortured childhood is finally out in the open. I am now trying to support and encourage my son in the hopes that he can finally get the help he needs in healing and becoming a happier and healthy adult.

Because my son is now 32 years old, which is beyond the Statute of Limitations in New York State, he has no legal recourse to pursue his abuser. The Markey Bill gives my son and others like himself, an opportunity to seek justice and vindication for the abuse that happened to him as a child.

Meanwhile, his abuser is still free and able to, when the opportunity arises, abuse other children.

New York State's children deserve to be protected; pedophiles do not. Please give your support to the Markey Bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,
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