

To: Members of The New York Senate

From: “ New York Victims of Sexual Abuse as Children” Tim Walsh, Brian Walsh, Beth McCabe, Richard Tollner, Rick Shalvoy, Timothy Eschause, Dick Regan, David McGuire, James Cruise, Kathryn Robb,

Subject: **Evidence to vote for Duane Bill "The Child Victims Act"**.

Dear Senator ,

This quote is directly from the Suffolk County Supreme Court Special Grand Jury...

***“The evidence before the Suffolk County Supreme Court Grand Jury clearly demonstrates the Diocesan officials agreed to engage in conduct that resulted in the prevention, hindrance, and delay in the discovery of criminal conduct by priests. They conceived and agreed to a plan using deception and intimidation to PREVENT victims from seeking legal solutions to their problems” Pg. 173***

May 2002 Term ID CPL 190.85(1) (c) A complete copy can be found at  
<http://www.co.suffolk.ny.us/da/press/pdf/DRVC%20GRAND%20JURY%20REPORT.pdf>

We ask that you *Strongly Support* "The Child Victims Act" - Duane S2568. Your decision will have a momentous impact on the lives of children of New York, both the young today, and the men and women who were abused as children but unjustly denied their day in court.

"The Child Victims Act" Duane Bill S2568 has a provision to suspend the Statue of Limitations (SOL) for child abuse for one year. That difference allows the uncovering of sexual predators, who are still unexposed for having been shielded by the statute of limitations.

We recognize that suspending the statute of limitations is an important matter. We urge you to consider that , in this case, it is a grave act not to suspend it. Terrible wrongs were committed, and the SOL was employed to undermine victim's needs and right to justice.

Many lives of children were severely damaged in this process.

This is not about the Catholic Church alone, although the Catholic Church would like you to believe so. The vast majority of victims are from many different churches, youth services, schools, synagogues, scout camps, and the area where the highest amount of abuse occurs .... in families and acquaintances. ALL children should have their day in court where they can legitimately identify their sexual predator(s).

Since the church has been the strongest voice in protesting against the “window” (SOL), it is fair to look at it's record in *shutting out victims and covering up for predators*. This powerful institution may be self serving in their attempt to blocking essential legislative reform for the vast majority of children at risk.

Speaking through the established legal process, the citizens of New York are making their concern known to you. The Suffolk County Supreme Court Special Grand Jury investigated the

actions against sexual abuse victims as did the Westchester Grand Jury.

***“Those who defend the value of the statute of limitation surely cannot be permitted to defend this subversion. The NEW YORK LEGISLATURE must right these wrongs.”*** Westchester County Grand Jury Report

You can view the entire Westchester County Grand Jury Report at: [http://www.bishop-accountability.org/reports/2002\\_06\\_19\\_Westchester\\_NY\\_Grand\\_Jury/](http://www.bishop-accountability.org/reports/2002_06_19_Westchester_NY_Grand_Jury/)

The Suffolk County Supreme Court Special Grand Jury concluded at Paragraph XXI on Page 179 that ***“The Diocese of Rockville Centre acted in a manner that resulted in plaintiffs being DEPRIVED of their right to legal recourse based on their abuse as children by priests in the (DRVC) Diocese. To remedy this situation, the Grand Jury recommends that the NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE should enact a statute similar to Section 340.1 of the Code of Civil Procedure for the State of California that revives civil actions for damages for a period of one year that are otherwise time barred solely because the applicable statute of limitations has or had expired. This Statute would pertain only to the actions for the recovery of damages suffered as a result of childhood sexual abuse.”***

Also, the Suffolk Grand Jury found, in case there is any confusion to motive.....

**PAGE172** “ignored credible complaints about the sexually abusive behaviors of priests”

**PAGE 173** “...evidence clearly demonstrates that Diocesan Officials agreed to engage in conduct that resulted in the prevention, hindrance, and delay in the discovery of criminal conduct by priests. They conceived and agreed to a plan using deception and intimidation to prevent victims from seeking LEGAL solutions.....”

**Page 174** “The Grand Jury find the actions of Diocesan officials who were responsible for making and implementing policy reprehensible, and urges the state legislature and other elected officials to adopt the recommendations that follow ( we refer to above Page 179 Section XXI) The Grand Jury understands that government must not interfere with the practice of religion and does not seek to do so in its recommendations. The Grand Jury is sensitive to and mindful of the constitutional principle of separation of church and state that we all cherish. However the Grand Jury also knows government has the obligation to protect its citizens, especially its most vulnerable ones, the children”

We urge you to "VOTE Yes" on the Duane Bill A2568 to deliver what these Grand Juries and your constituents ask for .

Thank you for "Protecting the Children of New York State"!

Sincerely,

The N.Y.S. Victims of "Child Sexual Abuse"

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