

ROAD TO RECOVERY, INC.

(serving sexual abuse survivors)

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To the Members of the New York State Legislature:

I have written to each of you individually to ask you to support the Markey/Duane bill, commonly known as the "Child Victims Act." As you know, I am a survivor of sexual abuse in at least five counties in the State of New York.

Since I went public in 2003, it has been my life's work to support those who have been sexually abused, especially those who were abused as minors. In six years, Father Kenneth Lasch and I have provided compassionate counseling to at least five hundred (500) survivors. While most of our work has been with clergy sexual abuse survivors, we also provide counseling to anyone who has been sexually abused.

New York State is filled with survivors of sexual abuse. Most of these survivors are grateful for our help on their roads to recovery; however, they are very sad that they are not able to hold their abusers accountable in the civil courts because of the statute of limitations. It is the single greatest obstacle to justice for survivors.

Changing the statute of limitations will help survivors, but the change will not affect most survivors unless they have the opportunity to enter the courthouse. Please pass legislation that will open a window for a year. You will be amazed at the effect it will have on survivors. They will gain much of their lives back.

Please do not believe the propaganda that is being spread principally by religious groups who think the legislation will target them. This legislation will help all survivors, and all survivors deserve their day in court. Not a single organization will be bankrupted or closed down because of this legislation.

I will not benefit by this legislation since I was an adult when I was abused, but I want my brother and sister survivors to have the chance to hold their abusers accountable. And I want the dozens of New York survivors with whom I work to have a heretofore denied right.

Please pass the Markey/Duane Child Victims Act.

Sincerely,

Rev. Robert M. Hoatson, Ph.D.
Founder and President