

Hi my name is Lisa Harter Pettit,

I am testifying today to get Harters law bill #hb7168 passed.If passed this bill will extend the statue of limitations for felony child abuse in rhode island.

Sadly I know how important this bill is.

I was physically, mentally and sexually abused and was used as a slave and tortured.

Some of the abuse my brother and I suffered was duct tape over my mouth every single day so we would not speak. Being over fed by my stepmother. She would count each chew of my food..I couldn't take more than 20 minutes to eat and couldn't chew my food more than 20 times. My stepmother would make me eat so much food that I would have to throw up.

She would make me throw up on my plate and eat my own throw up while continuously beating me and screaming at me.

I had to sleep in a basement with rats crawling over me.

She timed all of my chores around the house and would ridicule and beat me if I went over her unreasonable time limits for chores.

My brother and I were not allowed to bathe for months at a time. We stunk and had dirty clothes.we We were the most made fun of kids in school.

My father allowed all of this and so much more to happen to us.

My stepmother did know how to be a good parent, her two birth children (my step brother and stepsister) had beautiful clothing and the best of everything. While I was forced to quit school at 16 work and give them all the money I made.There were no good or normal days for David and I, this was an everyday occurrence for us.

We were also not allowed to have any friends, participate in school activities or have any contact with our birth mother's family so they would not see the abuse.

All while my stepsister monique went to st Xavier, Ri college and then Switzerland for college.

In my experience it takes years even decades to not blame ourselves and be strong enough to face our abusers in court.

I have ptsd,anxiety, panic attacks and nightmares because of the abuse I suffered. I found out through counseling last year that I have mental illness and brain damage because of the abuse I suffered at the hands of my father and stepmother.

My father died without any accountability for the severe abuse he did and allowed our stepmother to do to us.

My sister turned to drugs and died of an overdose not being able to deal with or forget the horrible memories of abuse.

If you have not yet read here there be monsters. By David I h Finch please do before you vote on this bill. It is a book my brother wrote about our childhood.

Thank you, Lisa harter pettit.

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