



March 4, 2025

Dear Lawmakers,

I am writing in strong support of HB - 5177, otherwise known as the Harter bill. As an educator for over 35 years, I have seen many children suffer the trauma of abuse. Years later I often see those same former students as adults, and that trauma does not just go away. Felony child abuse is not something someone can just "get over". The trauma often ruins their adult lives, or at the very least, makes it very difficult to have any type of "normal" relationships. The added pain and suffering comes from the fact that, when they are older and ready to face the trauma, the statute of limitations has run out and there is nothing that can be done. Abused children grow up to be adults who can never get proper justice.

Please vote to approve this bill to extend the statute of limitations for felony child abuse. I also recommend that you read David Leroy Harter Finch's book *Here There Be Monsters*.

Thank you,

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