

Thank you for allowing me to share my story in support of HB0001.

You have already heard the moving testimonies of many adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

Sexual assault at any age and under any circumstance is traumatic. This trauma never ends and speaking as a victim myself, this trauma resurrects over the years and takes on a life of its own.

My personal trauma occurred in 1994, when I was 16 years old and was a victim of date rape. This was someone whom I met through my trusted group of friends and started dating. After dealing with the shock for a while, I shared this information with my mother. I reported the rape to the local police station and their report included the fact that I had bruising on my thighs from being physically restrained during the attack. Two police detectives later came to our home after confronting my assailant at his home. They dissuaded us from pressing charges, stating that his family had money and that a trial would probably be another traumatic event for me.

I was in high school, an already challenging time for teenagers, and quickly found myself in a deep depression, consumed by my sadness. I attempted suicide, started seeing a therapist and taking antidepressants and eventually dropped out of school.

I developed PTSD and trust issues and I am still on antidepressants. Every single day I am reminded of what happened, but at age 45, I am currently unable to consider filing a civil suit.

The truth is, the trauma of that event is still with me, almost 30 years later. Remember, trauma has no statute of limitations. It has a life well beyond age 25 or 38, and its victims deserve closure.

Thank you.