TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 134:

CIVIL ACTIONS – CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE – DEFINITION AND STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS
SUPPORT

TO: Hon. Chairman William C. Smith, Hon. Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Eileen Lorenz

DATE: 02/02/2021

There's no good reason this bill shouldn't become law. If you're hesitant in any way, I don't think you're taking it personally enough. Everyone here has survivors in their lives. Some of us know who those people are and some of us don't, but they are here.

Imagine someone in your life was victimized at a young age, but stayed quiet in agonizing fear and shame. Imagine that as an adult, that person builds courage. They WANT to tell their story and confront their abuser.

Nobody here would deny a loved one that right. And that's what this bill is: the right to speak and be heard. We owe survivors the opportunity to strip the power from their perpetrators.

This bill would give survivors their right to a day in court. And nothing less than a court hearing would provide a satisfactory platform for them to speak their truth.

There is no other equivalent process. No, there's no statute of limitations on criminal cases. But, it's nearly impossible for victims to gather enough evidence from a hushed 20+ year old case to pursue criminal charges. A civil suit IS their only legal voice, and that's what this bill offers. A court hearing provides an unrivaled degree of credibility in a documented outcome. It is this type of on-record affirmation that survivors need and deserve to counteract the years of darkness that they were shamed into living alone.

You would want this freedom for your brother, your cousin, neighbor, or grandfather. You would want it for a dear friend. Please make this a reality for this community of compassionate, strong-willed survivors who have been fighting this fight for over a decade. Give them their time. Give them their voice. ***For these***

reasons, I urge a favorable committee report and passage of Senate Bill 134 without amendment.