

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0686:
CIVIL ACTIONS – CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE – DEFINITION AND STATUTE OF
LIMITATIONS
SUPPORT**

TO: HON. William Smith Jr, Chair, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

FROM: Daniel F. "Buddy" Robson Jr.

February 23, 2023

Dear Senator Smith and Members of the Committee:

As you look at the attached picture I'm sure it seems innocuous enough. It's a picture of my son and me who is attending his first day of school as a 6th grade student on August 29th 2019. His birth date is January 15, 2008 and he is 11 years old in this picture. Thousands of fathers Nationwide most likely pose for same picture with their son(s) every school year but unlike the others, there's a backstory to this picture.

My son, Sean, was the EXACT SAME AGE I was when I was sexually abused by a Catholic priest by the name of Timothy P. Slevin, who at the time was assigned to St. James Church/School in Mt. Rainier, MD (Prince Georges County). The pain of my abuse laid dormant in my memory for many years but has come back full force with the revelations of Theodore McCarrick and the subsequent resignation of Donald Wuerl for his part in covering up the abuse of children as revealed in the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report. It is still too painful for me to talk about and I really thought I'd take my "secret" to my grave. I will turn 68 in December this year and STILL live with my "secret". It's been a very hard road to have to live through the pain of my abuse again.

As a father and a parent, I look at my son and I sometimes cry, but I mostly pray that he'll never know the pain of what I went through and what I am going through now. Nothing, and no one will ever be able to take back what was done to me but if I can do anything at all to prevent my son, or anyone's son/daughter from having to experience the pain of sexual abuse at the hands of a pedophile predator then my efforts today and everyday will be worth it.

For these reasons I urge a favorable committee report and passage of Senate Bill 686 without amendments.

Most sincerely,
Daniel F. "Buddy" Robson Jr.

