

House Bill #2306
Judiciary Committee
Rep. Fred Patton, Chair

Written Testimony in Support of HB 2306

Members of the House Judiciary Committee

I ask that you pass HB 2306 extending the time for survivors of childhood sexual abuse to bring a civil case against their abusers. From my personal experience, I know that it can take decades for the truth to come out.

As a child of around nine or ten, I was invasively fondled by a trusted uncle. I remember him pulling me onto his lap. I remember his rough hands on my flat chest. I remember his sharp fingernail in my innocent body. I remember him jumping up quickly when he heard someone coming. I came from a good Catholic family and was taught to obey my elders. I was taught that parts of my body were wicked and unclean. For decades, I battled guilt and shame because somehow, in my mind, it must have been my fault. I never told a soul until 50 years later. I spoke of it to my sister and mother. Guess what, my sister had been abused as well and had never told anyone before either. Me Rogers said if you can mention it, you can manage it. It is never too late to right a wrong from the past and only by confronting them can we be free of their pernicious effects.

My uncle died before I was a teenager, but how many other abusers continue to claim young victims who may not have the strength to confront them until many years later. The current statute of limitations enables their abuse. Please pass HB 2306 in defense of young victims everywhere.

Respectfully,
Carol Shimeall
Olathe, Kansas