



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1617		DATE: 2/7/2024
COMMITTEE: Judiciary		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: CHERYL ROBB-WELCH		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4161
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE		TITLE: CEO
ADDRESS: 217 OSCAR DRIVE, SUITE A		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY	STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: cherylrw@mocadsv.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 3:09 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Thank you to the bill sponsor Rep. Seitz and the Committee. Thank you to the survivors who have spoken this afternoon. My name is Cheryl Robb-Welch and I am the CEO of the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. We are a membership organization representing nearly 100 agencies who provide services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and stalking. The majority of agencies in our membership provide sexual violence services that include hospital response and counseling to name just two of the many services they offer. Within the span of a day they work with those recently victimized and assaulted as well as those living with the long-lasting effects of child sexual abuse. The stories shared with you today are important because not only do they give voice to survivors but it also provides you with some insight into the abuse people go thru as well as the lasting impacts of trauma. It takes time to determine who it is safe to disclose to, time to find safety, and time to garner strength to decide to report what has happened, and time to determine what is next in the healing journey. This bill affords victims time they need to seek justice. On behalf of our members and the 1,000s of survivors of rape and abuse, we urge you to support HB 1617.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTOPHER KEVIN OLEARY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: thepainguy@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 10:21 AM
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During this hearing, you will hear THAT it often takes survivors of child sexual abuse in religious settings a long time to come forward, and some of the WHY, but, to date, I've never heard a COMPLETELY accounting.EVERY aspect of why it takes survivors so long to come forward.In sum, it's not JUST the trauma.It's also the DIRTY TRICKS.Dirty tricks I've yet to hear mentioned in testimony pertaining to this bill, and similar ones.Dirty tricks designed to sow confusion and doubt in the minds of survivors and create problems with the Statute Of Limitations.Dirty tricks perpetrated, as in my case, by the Catholic Church, abuse profiteers within the hierarchy of the church, and outside enablers.That includes the top legal officers of the state of Missouri.And now United States senators.My name is Chris O'Leary and I'm a survivor of the Catholic sex abuse crisis.In the late 1970s and early 1980s, at the Church of the Immacolata in Richmond Heights, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis, just up the hill from the Galleria Mall, if you know St. Louis, I was sexually exploited, abused, and assaulted — ultimately RAPED — by a priest named Father Leroy Valentine.And then things got REALLY bad.My abuse was witnessed, at least in part, by then Father and now Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the Archbishop of New York and, perhaps, the next Pope and first American Pope. Dolan lived and worked with my abuser, Fr. LeRoy Valentine, for two years at Immacolata, from the Summer of 1977 until the Summer of 1979.Not only did Cardinal Dolan turn a blind eye to my (and our) sexual abuse by Fr. Valentine at Immacolata but, worse, when, in early March of 2002, I went to then (auxiliary) BISHOP Dolan for help understanding what my memories of Fr. Valentine meant and what, if anything, happened to me, now CARDINAL Dolan lied to, manipulated, and gaslighted me, telling me my memories didn't mean anything. Dolan told me, in a conversation that took place most likely in the evening of March 6, 2002, in sum, not only did nothing happen to me, it was IMPOSSIBLE that anything could have happened to me. And I quote..."I know Fr. Valentine well.We were at the seminary together.We lived and worked together at Immacolata.I know Leroy Valentine didn't do any of the things he's being accused of.I know he would never do anything to hurt a child."The problem with that statement is it was a LIE.Dolan's actions of later that month make that clear.Over the past five years, I've come to understand that I was at least the 2nd person that DAY, the 4th person in the prior few WEEKS, and the 6th, by the end of March 2002, to tell now Cardinal Dolan of abuse by Fr. Valentine.I know for a fact — I have a document that establishes — that at least one other person contacted then Bishop and now Cardinal Timothy Dolan with information about Father Valentine at the same time, likely on the same DAY, that I did in early March 2002, presumably because they saw the same request for information that I did.Worse still, (at least) a THIRD person, in just March 2002, contacted now Cardinal Dolan regarding abuse by Fr. Valentine. I know about them because they also contacted me.All of which led to Fr. Valentine's removal by the end of March 2002.At no point, in late March 2002, or since, did then Bishop and now Cardinal Timothy Dolan circle back to me to let me know that there were (at least) FIVE other people who had stories similar to mine.And that, just maybe, my memories about Father LeRoy Valentine DID

mean something. All of which I bring up to address and refute the testimony of various parties affiliated with or supportive of the Catholic Church and the Archdiocese of St. Louis. While they consistently make the point that what happened to me and to us happened SO long ago, what they haven't told you about is the concerted efforts of people like then Bishop and now Cardinal Timothy Dolan, and others, to sow doubt and confusion in the minds of survivors. Dirty tricks. Designed to lead us to question our own memories. And, in my case, at least, create a problem with the Statute Of Limitations. It's not just the trauma, and what THAT does to you, that explains why survivors take so long to come forward. It's the efforts of men like Cardinal Dolan. The dirty tricks. Dirty tricks developed and coached by their lawyers, insurance companies, and others? Worst of all, it's not just Cardinal Dolan and members of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Catholic Church who have engaged in such dirty tricks; efforts to protect the Catholic Church and the Archdiocese of St. Louis, NOT the people of Missouri. Including survivors. My case involves and implicates not just Timothy Cardinal Dolan but it also involves and implicates both of the previous Attorneys General, and now United States senators, from the state of Missouri. - U.S. Senator Josh Hawley- U.S. Senator Eric Schmitt. And, to be clear, I make this allegation as a conservative who tends — or, well, TENDED — to vote Republican. Though not recently, obviously. In August 2018 then Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley opened an investigation of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, an investigation that was a complete and utter SHAM. I know that because — out of a naive hope — I tried to assist in that investigation, submitting information to the MO AG's office THREE TIMES through the web site and also speaking to the woman who was heading up the team, Christine, whose name I got from John Hancock via my mom's church. I never heard back from now Senator United States senator Josh Hawley or his team. Senator Hawley and his team were utterly uninterested in what I had to say. Then, at the end of 2018, Hawley left for the senate. After being harassed by a family member of Tom Albus, the incoming first assistant Attorney General of Missouri, who I know from our church, MQP, I did manage to get in contact, and get an interview, with a member of new MO AG Eric Schmitt's team in February 2019. That interview then led to nothing. I then went back to Attorney General Schmitt's team in late July 2019 and managed to convince them to interview me for a second time. The problem with that second interview is the outcome. Within days of that second meeting with the office of the Attorney General of the State of Missouri, Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt, a Catholic, killed the investigation of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, I have to suspect as a result of my naming and implicating now Cardinal Timothy Dolan. All of which I mention in order to make clear what survivors are facing and why it so often takes us so long to come forward. And why, so often, our cases run up against the Statute Of Limitations. As my 2015 lawsuit did. Survivors don't just have to deal with our abusers and abuse. Survivors aren't just facing the lies and deceptions and gaslighting of abuse profiteers like Cardinal Dolan. Instead, survivors have to overcome the system itself; the efforts of men like former Attorneys General, and now United States senators, Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt to protect the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Catholic Church. Not the people of Missouri. Thank you. Chris O'Leary University City, Missouri February 6, 2024



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTOPHER KEVIN OLEARY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: thepainguy@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 11:01 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

REVISED/UPDATED TESTIMONY OF CHRIS O'LEARY 2.7.2024 10:58AMI HOPE TO DELIVER THIS TESTIMONY IN PERSON, AND AM DRIVING TO JEFF CITY, BUT AM THE PRIMARY CAREGIVER OF MY MOTHER, WHO HAS ALZHEIMER'S, SO MY NEED TO CARE FOR HER MAY KEEP ME FROM BEING ABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON.IN THAT CASE, PLEASE JUST SUBMIT MY TESTIMONY.CHRIS O'LEARY- -- ---During this hearing, you will hear THAT it often takes survivors of child sexual abuse in religious settings a long time to come forward, and some of the WHY, but, to date, I've never heard a COMPLETE accounting.EVERY aspect of why it takes survivors so long to come forward.In sum, it's not JUST the trauma.It's also the DIRTY TRICKS.Dirty tricks I've yet to hear mentioned in testimony pertaining to this bill, and similar ones.Dirty tricks designed to sow confusion and doubt in the minds of survivors and create problems with the Statute Of Limitations.As they did in my case.Dirty tricks perpetrated by the Catholic Church, abuse profiteers within the hierarchy of the church, and outside enablers.That includes the top legal officers of the state of Missouri and now United States senators.My name is Chris O'Leary and I'm a survivor of the Catholic sex abuse crisis.In the late 1970s and early 1980s, at the Church of the Immacolata in Richmond Heights, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis, just up the hill from the Galleria Mall, if you know St. Louis, I was sexually exploited, abused, and assaulted — ultimately RAPED — by a priest named Father LeRoy Valentine.And then things got REALLY bad.My abuse was witnessed, at least in part, by then Father and now Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the Archbishop of New York and, perhaps, the next, and first American, Pope.Timothy Cardinal Dolan lived and worked with my abuser, Fr. LeRoy Valentine, for two years at Immacolata, from the Summer of 1977 until the Summer of 1979. Not only did Cardinal Dolan turn a blind eye to my (and our) sexual abuse by Fr. Valentine at Immacolata but, worse, when, in early March of 2002, I went to then (auxiliary) Bishop Dolan for help understanding what my memories of Fr. Valentine meant and what, if anything, happened to me, now Cardinal Dolan lied to, manipulated, and gaslighted me, telling me my memories didn't mean anything. Dolan told me, in a conversation that took place most likely in the evening of March 6, 2002, in sum, not only did nothing happen to me, it was IMPOSSIBLE that anything could have happened to me. And I quote..."I know Fr. Valentine well.We were at the seminary together.We lived and worked together at Immacolata.I know Leroy Valentine didn't do any of the things he's being accused of.I know he would never do anything to hurt a child."The problem with that statement is it was a LIE.Dolan's actions of later that month, March 2002, make that clear.Over the past five years, I've come to learn that I was at least the 2nd person that DAY, at least the 4th person in the prior few WEEKS, and at least the 6th, by the end of March 2002, person to tell then Bishop and now Cardinal Dolan of abuse by Fr. LeRoy Valentine.I know for a fact — I have a document that establishes — that at least one other person contacted then Bishop and now Cardinal Timothy Dolan with information about Father Valentine at the same time, likely on the same DAY, that I did in early March 2002, presumably because they saw the same televised request for information that I did.Worse still, (at least) a THIRD person, in

just March 2002, contacted Dolan regarding abuse by Fr. Valentine. I know about them because they also contacted me. All of that led to Fr. Valentine's resignation at the end of March 2002. At no point, in late March 2002, or since, did then Bishop and now Cardinal Timothy Dolan circle back to let me know that there were (at least) FIVE other people who had stories similar to mine. And that, just maybe, my memories about Father LeRoy Valentine DID in fact mean something. All of which I bring up to address and refute the testimony of various parties affiliated with or supportive of the Catholic Church and the Archdiocese of St. Louis. While they consistently make the point that what happened to me and to us happened SO long ago, what they haven't told you about is the concerted efforts of people like then Bishop and now Cardinal Timothy Dolan, and others, to sow doubt and confusion in the minds of survivors. Dirty tricks. Designed to lead us to question our own memories. And, in my case, at least, created a problem with the Statute Of Limitations. I have to assume, by design. Again, it's not JUST the trauma, and what THAT does to you, that explains why survivors take so long to come forward. It's also efforts of abuse profiteers like Cardinal Dolan. The dirty tricks. Dirty tricks developed and coached by their lawyers, insurance companies, and others, I have to wonder? Worse still, it's not just Cardinal Dolan and members of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Catholic Church who have engaged in such dirty tricks; efforts to protect the Catholic Church and the Archdiocese of St. Louis, NOT the people of Missouri. My case involves and implicates not just Timothy Cardinal Dolan but also involves and implicates both of the previous Attorneys General, and now United States senators, from the state of Missouri. - U.S. Senator Josh Hawley- U.S. Senator Eric Schmitt. And, to be clear, I make this allegation as a conservative who tends — or, well, TENDED — to vote Republican. Though not recently, obviously. In August 2018 then Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley opened an investigation of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, an investigation that was a complete and utter SHAM. I know that because — out of a naive hope — I tried to assist in that investigation, submitting information to the MO AG's office THREE TIMES through the web site and also speaking to the woman who was heading up the team, Christine, whose name I got from John Hancock via my mom's church. Senator Hawley and his team were utterly uninterested in what I had to say, and never got back to me to hear what I had to say. Then, at the end of 2018, Hawley left for the senate. After being harassed by a family member of Tom Albus, the incoming first assistant Attorney General of Missouri, who I know from our church, MQP, I did manage to get in contact, and get an interview, with a member of new MO AG Eric Schmitt's team in February 2019. That interview led to nothing. I then went back to Attorney General Schmitt's team in late July 2019 and managed to convince them to interview me for a second time. The problem with that second interview is the outcome. Within days of that second meeting with the office of the Attorney General of the State of Missouri, Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt, a Catholic, ended the investigation of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, I have to suspect as a result of my naming and implicating now Cardinal Timothy Dolan. Talk about dirty tricks. To be clear, I bring up Senators Hawley and Schmitt, not just because of what they did and did not do but because those interactions, and others, raise an important question. If that kind of thing — the enabling and protecting of the Catholic Church by sworn officials of the state of Missouri — is still happening, NOW, what was happening during the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, and since, when I and other survivors were coming forward for help? Or, at least, trying to. All of which I mention in order to make clear what survivors are facing and why it so often takes us so long to come forward. And why, so often, our cases run up against the Statute Of Limitations. As my 2015 lawsuit did. Survivors don't just have to deal with our abusers and abuse. Survivors aren't just facing the lies and deceptions and gaslighting of abuse profiteers like Cardinal Timothy Dolan. Instead, survivors have to overcome the system itself; the efforts of men like former Attorneys General, and now United States senators, Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt, to protect the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Catholic Church. Not the people of Missouri. Thank you. Chris O'Leary University City, Missouri February 7, 2024



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH PHILLIPS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EVAN HOFFPAUIR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: evanhp@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 11:34 AM

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Thank you for allowing me to give testimony in support of HB1617. Special thanks to Representative Seitz for authoring this important bill. I have a particular connection to Representative Seitz as I spent my entire childhood in his hometown. My name is Evan Hoffpauir and I live in Omaha, NE with my wife and four boys. I grew up in Branson and was a resident there from 1992 to 2010. At age 12, I met Peter Newman of Kanakuk Kamps, in which I was groomed for sexual abuse in Branson, across state lines, and internationally in China. I was then spiritually, and sexually abused by Newman from 1999 to 2003. I was never a summer camper, but was abused consistently during camp off-seasons after meeting Newman at K-Life ministries, a para-church organization in the Kanakuk Family of Ministries. I didn't tell anyone of my sexual abuse until 2009, when telling my wife, after Newman was facing trial, a decade after my abuse began. For years, the immense amount of trauma, embarrassment, fear, and shame crippled me and caused me to hide from my past. No one deserves to carry the amount of shame that I experienced as a sexual abuse victim. In an effort to find some normalcy in my life, I focused on getting a degree, getting married, serving vocationally in my community, and starting a family. As a young adult I was able to achieve all of those things but was never able to get out from underneath the shame I felt about my childhood. As I sat in my shame and tried to run from my trauma, Kanakuk Kamps was using their voice to share a different story about Newman's behavior. They stated that they fired Newman as soon as they were aware of his abusive behaviors and that he acted alone. I believed this narrative for over a decade. But in 2021, I saw video evidence that Kanakuk Kamps was aware of Newman's predatory actions as far back as 1999, the year we met, and failed to act appropriately in order to protect myself and many other victims. In 2021, I realized there was someone else responsible for what had taken place. It wasn't until the spring of 2022, after seeing this proof, that I was able to tell my parents of my abuse, nearly two decades later. For years I was fighting to be myself, to not let my sexual abuse define who I was, but this new evidence gave me validation and a reason to use my voice. As I sought out legal action in an effort to hold my enablers accountable, I was crushed to find out I was years past the Missouri statute of limitations. The law was telling me there was nothing to be done about it. The clock had ran out for me. The current civil statute of limitations laws only protect the perpetrator. Many victims fight for years amidst trauma, depression, suicidal thoughts, and shame, and it takes them years to be ready to tell their stories if ever, and not all survive. The law does not favor Missouri children. It only protects the one's responsible for the abuse. Changing the statute of limitations law in MO would let current survivors of childhood sexual abuse know that their story matters, that they matter, and that MO doesn't stand on the side of sexual predators. This bill would not only give voices back to the abused but would also help prevent further abuse from ever taking place. If perpetrators and enablers knew that MO stands for children, and that they can be held accountable, it would reduce the amount of children who get sexually abused. The moment I met my first child, I was overcome with fear and anxiety for him. Would this become his reality someday? Will

we be able to protect him? As my son gets closeto the age when I was first groomed and abused, I begin to see my 12 year old self. Iwant to rewind back to 1999 and change the past, I would do anything to keep thesexual abuse from happening, anything.We can not go back and undo the horrific abuse that was done to countless children allover this state, but we can change the future, and allow for HB1617 to give a voice backto the abused and to protect the future of children in Missouri.Will you fight to protect Missouri's children?



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GRANT BOYD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA SEITZ		PHONE NUMBER: 573-415-6228	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI KIDS FIRST		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 520 DIX ROAD, SUITE C			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOE ALARCON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN D. KING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN HOBBS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHRYN ROBB		PHONE NUMBER: 781-856-7207	
REPRESENTING: CHILD USADVOCACY		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 3508 MARKET STREET, SUITE 201			
CITY: PHILADELPHIA		STATE: PA	ZIP: 19104
EMAIL: info@childusadvocacy.org		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 4:05 PM

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Dear Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee, Thank you for allowing us to submit testimony in support of HB1617 which will extend the statute of limitation (“SOL”) for child sexual abuse (“CSA”). This legislation will not only bring long overdue justice to survivors, but it will also greatly reduce the present danger to children in Missouri by exposing hidden predators who are still abusing children today. By way of introduction, Professor Marci Hamilton is a First Amendment constitutional scholar at the University of Pennsylvania who has led the national movement to reform statutes of limitations to reflect the science of delayed disclosure of childhood sexual abuse and who founded CHILD USA, a national nonprofit think tank devoted to ending child abuse and neglect. Kathryn Robb is the Executive Director of CHILD USA Advocacy, an advocacy organization dedicated to protecting children’s civil liberties and keeping children safe from abuse and neglect. Kathryn is also an outspoken survivor of child sex abuse. I. Research on Trauma and Delayed Disclosure Supports SOL Reform for Child Sexual AbuseA. There is a Nationwide Epidemic of CSA Causing Lifelong Damage to Victims Currently, more than 10% of children are sexually abused, with at least one in five girls and one in thirteen boys sexually abused before they turn 18. CSA is a social problem that occurs in all social groups and institutions, including familial, religious, educational, medical, and athletic. Nearly 90% of CSA perpetrators are someone the child knows; in fact, roughly one third of CSA offenses are committed by family members. The trauma stemming from CSA is complex and individualized, and it impacts victims throughout their lifetimes: • Childhood trauma, including CSA, can have devastating impacts on a child’s brain, including disrupted neurodevelopment; impaired social, emotional, and cognitive development; psychiatric and physical disease, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) ; and disability. • CSA victims suffer an increased risk of suicide—in one study, female CSA survivors were two to four times more likely to attempt suicide, and male CSA survivors were four to 11 times more likely to attempt suicide. • CSA leads to an increased risk of negative outcomes across the lifespan, such as alcohol problems, illicit drug use, depression, marriage issues, and family problems. B. CSA Victims Commonly Delay Disclosure of Their Abuse for Decades Many victims of CSA suffer in silence for decades before they talk to anyone about their traumatic experiences. As children, CSA victims often fear the negative repercussions of disclosure, such as disruptions in family stability, loss of relationships, or involvement with the authorities. Additionally, CSA survivors may struggle to disclose because of trauma and psychological barriers such as shame and self-blame, as well as social factors like gender-based stereotypes or the stigma surrounding victimization. Further, many injuries resulting from CSA do not manifest until survivors are well into adulthood. These manifestations may coincide with difficulties in functioning and a further delay in disclosure of abuse. Moreover, disclosure of CSA to the authorities for criminal prosecution or an attorney in pursuit

of civil justice is a difficult and emotionally complex process, which involves the survivor knowing that he or she was abused, being willing to identify publicly as an abuse survivor, and deciding to act against their abuser. In light of these barriers to disclosure, it is not surprising that: • In a study of survivors of abuse in Boy Scouts of America, 51% of survivors disclosed their abuse for the first time at age 50 or older. • An estimated 70% of child sexual assault victims never contact police to report abuse. • One-third of CSA survivors never report their abuse to anyone. For both children and adults, disclosure of CSA trauma is a process and not a discrete event in which a victim comes to terms with their abuse. To effectively protect children from abuse, SOL laws must reflect this reality.

II. SOL Reform Serves the Public Good by Giving Survivors Access to Justice and Preventing Future Abuse Historically, a wall of ignorance and secrecy has been constructed around CSA, which has been reinforced by short SOLs that kept victims out of the legal system. Short SOLs for CSA play into the hands of the perpetrators and the institutions that cover up for them; they disable victims' voices and empowerment and leave future children vulnerable to preventable sexual assault. CHILD USA and CHILD USA Advocacy are leading the vibrant national and global movement to eliminate civil and criminal SOLs and revive expired civil claims as a systemic solution to the preventable CSA epidemic. There are three compelling public purposes served by the child sexual abuse SOL reform movement: statute of limitations reform identifies hidden child predators and the institutions that endanger children to the public, shielding other children from future abuse; punishes bad actors and shifts the cost of abuse from the victims and taxpayers to those who caused it; and prevents further abuse by educating the public about the prevalence, signs, and impact of child sex abuse so that it can be prevented in the future.

A. SOL Reform Identifies Hidden Child Predators and Institutions that Endanger Children It is in society's best interest to have sex abuse survivors identify hidden child predators to the public—whenever the survivor is ready. The decades before public disclosure give perpetrators and institutions wide latitude to suppress the truth to the detriment of children, parents, and the public. Some predators abuse a high number of victims and continue abusing children well into their elderly years. For example, one study found that 7% of offenders sampled committed offenses against 41 to 450 children, and the highest time between offense to conviction was 36 years. SOL reform helps protect Missouri's children by identifying sexual predators in our midst. By extending short restrictive SOLs, hidden predators are brought into the light and are prevented from further abusing more children in Missouri.

B. SOL Reform Punishes Bad Actors and Shifts the Cost of Abuse CSA generates staggering costs that impact the nation's health care, education, criminal justice, and welfare systems. The estimated lifetime cost to society of child sexual abuse cases occurring in the US in 2015 is \$9.3 billion, and the average cost of non-fatal per female victim was estimated at \$282,734. Average cost estimates per victim include, in part, \$14,357 in child medical costs, \$9,882 in adult medical costs, \$223,581 in lost productivity, \$8,333 in child welfare costs, \$2,434 in costs associated with crime, and \$3,760 in special education costs. Costs associated with suicide deaths are estimated at \$20,387 for female victims. It is unfair for the victims, their families, and Missouri taxpayers to be the only ones who bear this burden; this bill levels the playing field by imposing liability on the ones who caused the abuse and alleviating the burdens on the victims and taxpayers.

SOL Reform Prevents Further Abuse SOL reform also educates the public about the dangers of CSA and how to prevent it. When predators and institutions are exposed, particularly high-profile ones like Larry Nassar, Jeffrey Epstein, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Catholic Church, the media publish investigations and documentaries that enlighten the public about the insidious ways child molesters operate to sexually assault children and the institutional failures that enabled their abuse. By shedding light on the problem, parents and other guardians are better able to identify abusers and responsible institutions, while the public is empowered to recognize grooming and abusive behavior and pressure youth serving organizations to implement prevention policies to report abuse in real time. Indeed, CSA publicity creates more social awareness to help keep kids safe, while also encouraging institutions to implement accountability and safe practices.

III. Missouri Should Join the National Trend Toward SOL Reform for CSA The gold standard of the SOL reform movement for CSA is for states to eliminate civil and criminal SOLs and revive expired civil claims—like Maryland, Vermont, Maine, Guam, and NMI have already done. Missouri lags behind and has some of the shortest SOLs in the nation for CSA claims. CHILD USA and CHILD USA Advocacy are proud to have played a major role working with bi-partisan leaders on a new federal law eliminating the SOL for over a dozen federal civil CSA claims and permitting victims to bring a lawsuit against perpetrators and institutions for compensation for their injuries. 18 U.S.C. § 2255. "The science of trauma is clear: it often takes years for victims to come forward," stated Senator Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), the sponsor of the bill. Co-sponsor Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) correctly pointed out that "[t]he statute of limitations for sexual abuse offenses should never prohibit young survivors from getting the justice they deserve."

A. Missouri Should Eliminate or Extend Civil SOLs Currently, Missouri's civil SOL for claims against perpetrators expires when victims reach age 31 or 3 years after discovering their injuries. As shown in the graphic below, Missouri's civil SOL ranks among the worst

in the country. In contrast, seventeen U.S. states and territories, along with the federal government, have already abolished their age cap for many CSA claims. The worst states and territories with age limits that block claims when victims are barely in their 30's are out of touch with science and the realities child sex abuse trauma. Missouri is 1 of 20 states with the shortest civil SOLs in the country, cutting off survivors' rights at age 34 or younger. IV. Conclusion Once again, we commend you for supporting this legislation, which is desperately needed to validate adult survivors of CSA and protect Missouri children from preventable sexual abuse. Extending the civil SOL is a positive step for Missouri's children and families. For more information about SOL reform, visit childusa.org/sol/ or email info@childusa.org. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions regarding SOL reform or if we can be of assistance in any way on other child protection issues. Sincerely, Kathryn Robb Esq. Executive Director CHILD USA Advocacy 3508 Market Street, Suite 201 Philadelphia, PA 19104 krobb@childusadvocacy.org (781) 856-7207 Marci A. Hamilton, Esq. Founder & CEO CHILD USA 3508 Market Street, Suite 202 Philadelphia, PA 19104 mhamilton@childusa.org (215) 539-1906--

Sources: G. Moody, et. al., Establishing the international prevalence of self-reported child maltreatment: a systematic review by maltreatment type and gender, 18(1164) BMC PUBLIC HEALTH (2018) (finding a 20.4% prevalence rate of CSA among North American girls); M. Stoltenborgh, et. al., A Global Perspective on Child Sexual Abuse: Meta-Analysis of Prevalence Around the World, 16(2) CHILD MALTREATMENT 79 (2011) (finding a 20.1% prevalence rate of CSA among North American girls); N. Pereda, et. al., The prevalence of child sexual abuse in community and student samples: A meta-analysis, 29 CLINICAL PSYCH. REV. 328, 334 (2009) (finding a 7.5% and 25.3% prevalence rate of CSA among North American boys and girls respectively). Perpetrators often being parents, stepparents, siblings, and grandparents. Sarah E. Ullman, Relationship to Perpetrator, Disclosure, Social Reactions, and PTSD Symptoms in Child Sexual Abuse Survivors, 16 J. CHILD SEX. ABUSE 19 (2007); David Finkelhor & Anne Shattuck, Characteristics of Crimes Against Juveniles, University of New Hampshire, Crimes Against Children Research Center (2012), available at http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV26_Revised%20Characteristics%20of%20Crimes%20against%20Juveniles_5-2-12.pdf. B. A. van der Kolk, The Body Keeps the Score: Memory & the Evolving Psychobiology of Posttraumatic Stress, 1(5) HARVARD REV. OF PSYCHIATRY 253-65 (1994); see also Hoskell, L. & Randall, M., The Impact of Trauma on Adult Sexual Assault Victims, JUSTICE CANADA (2019), https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/trauma/trauma_eng.pdf. As explained by the Center for Disease Control, "Adverse Childhood Experiences" ("ACEs"), like CSA, "have a tremendous impact on future violence victimization and perpetration, and lifelong health and opportunity." Vincent J. Felitti et al., Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, 14(4) AM. J. PREV. MED. 245 (1998); S.R. Dube et al., Childhood Abuse, Household Dysfunction, and the Risk of Attempted Suicide Throughout the Life Span: Findings from the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, 286 JAMA 24, 3089 (Dec. 2001). Josie Spataro et al., Impact of Child Sexual Abuse on Mental Health: Prospective Study in Males and Females, 184 Br. J. Psychiatry 416 (2004). See Felitti, at 245-58; see also R. Anda, et al., The Enduring Effects of Abuse and Related Adverse Experiences in Childhood, 256 EUR. ARCH PSYCHIATRY CLIN. NEUROSCIENCE 174, 175 (Nov. 2005) ("Numerous studies have established that childhood stressors such as abuse or witnessing domestic violence can lead to a variety of negative health outcomes and behaviors, such as substance abuse, suicide attempts, and depressive disorders"); M. Merricka, et al., Unpacking the impact of adverse childhood experiences on adult mental health, 69 CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT 10 (July 2017); see also Sachs-Ericsson, et al., A Review of Childhood Abuse, Health, and Pain-Related Problems: The Role of Psychiatric Disorders and Current Life Stress, 10(2) J. TRAUMA & DISSOCIATION 170, 171 (2009) (adult survivors are thirty percent more likely to develop serious medical conditions such as cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, and heart disease); T.L. Simpson, et al., Concomitance between childhood sexual and physical abuse and substance use problems: A review, 22 CLINICAL PSYCHOL. REV. 27 (2002) (adult survivors of CSA are nearly three times as likely to report substance abuse problems than their non-survivor peers). Beth E. Molnar et al., Psychopathology, Childhood Sexual Abuse and other Childhood Adversities: Relative Links to Subsequent Suicidal Behaviour in the US, 31 PSYCHOL. MED. 965 (2001). Shanta R. Dube et al., Long-Term Consequences of Childhood Sexual Abuse by Gender of Victim, 28 AM. J. PREV. MED. 430, 434 (2005). Delphine Collin-Vézina et al., A Preliminary Mapping of Individual, Relational, and Social Factors that Impede Disclosure of Childhood Sexual Abuse, 43 CHILD ABUSE NEGL. 123 (2015). Ramona Alaggia et al., Facilitators and Barriers to Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Disclosures: A Research Update (2000-2016), 20 TRAUMA VIOLENCE ABUSE 260, 279 (2019). For an analysis of the SOL reform movement since 2002, see CHILD USA, History of US SOL Reform: 2002-2020, CHILDUSA.ORG (last visited Aug. 30, 2021), available at www.childusa.org/sol-report-2020. Michelle Elliott et al., Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: What Offenders Tell Us, 19 CHILD ABUSE NEGL. 579 (1995). Elizabeth J. Letourneau et al., The Economic Burden of Child Sexual Abuse in the United States, 79 CHILD ABUSE NEGL. 413 (2018). E.g., Netflix's Jeffrey Epstein: Filthy Rich; HBO's At the Heart of Gold: Inside the

USA Gymnastics Scandal.



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BILL NUMBER: HB 1617		DATE: 2/7/2024	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KEITH DYGERT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KRIS ALLAN DAVISON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kris.davison@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 1:39 PM
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Please vote HB 1617. I believe all victims have the right to pursue civil action in a time frame that is helpful for them in their healing process.



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WITNESS NAME			
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WITNESS NAME: LOGAN GREGORY YANDELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: lyand@acehandymanservices.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 9:36 AM
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Members of the Missouri Legislature, My name is Logan Yandell. I submit this statement as both a survivor of child sexual abuse and an advocate for those silenced by the statute of limitations on such cases in Missouri. My current journey through the legal system in Missouri highlights a path that, unfortunately, many of my peers cannot embark upon due to the current legal framework. (23CT-CC00088 - LOGAN YANDELL V KANAKUK HERITAGE INC ET AL) HB 1617 presents a critical opportunity to address this issue by amending the statute of limitations for childhood sexual abuse cases. This legislation is not just a change in the legal code; it represents a fundamental shift towards justice and healing for survivors. For too many, the realization to seek justice comes at a time when the law no longer permits them to file a case. The importance of HB 1617 lies in its potential to provide survivors with the acknowledgment and justice they deserve, irrespective of the time it has taken them to come forward. While I am fortunate to pursue justice within our current system, I stand in solidarity with those who find themselves outside the reach of justice due to time-bound legal barriers. This bill is about more than legal reform; it's about validating the experiences of survivors and ensuring that our legal system reflects an understanding of the complexities surrounding childhood sexual abuse. It is an affirmation that Missouri values the dignity and rights of every individual affected by such heinous acts. I urge you to support and pass HB 1617 unanimously. By doing so, you will send a powerful message that in Missouri, the pursuit of justice for survivors of child sexual abuse is not constrained by the passage of time. Let this legislation stand as a testament to our collective commitment to healing, justice, and the protection of the most vulnerable among us. Thank you for your time and for considering the profound impact HB 1617 will have on the lives of countless survivors across your state. Sincerely, Logan Yandell



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MARK HABBAS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-393-9757	
REPRESENTING: CITY OF BRANSON		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 205 E. CAPITOL AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
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WITNESS NAME: RYAN FRAZIER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: WENDY DAVISON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
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EMAIL: wendydavison@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 1:16 PM

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Please vote yes on this important issue affecting thousands of Missourians. I have been impacted by this in my life and believe all victims deserve the right and opportunity to pursue civil action in a time frame that is safe and helpful for their healing. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 11:58 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL HENDERSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-4241	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI INSURANCE COALITION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 220B E HIGH ST			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: PHILLIP ARNZEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3511	
REPRESENTING: MO CHAMBER OF COMMERECE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 428 E. CAPITOL AVE.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RICH AUBUCHON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-616-1845	
REPRESENTING: MO CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM COALITION, INC		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 112 E HIGH ST			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
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