

January 8, 2023

Dear Chairman Klemin and committee members,

My name is Harriette Rebsom. I am Andrea Rebsom's mom. I have walked beside her through her long and traumatic journey. I have felt her pain, our entire family has.

When she was asked to give a statement to Stewart Stenberg regarding the sexual assault that occurred in the ICU of our hospital she was extremely scared. Before going in she said to me "Mom, I don't know why all of this has happened to me but hopefully someday I can make a difference for others."

I believe HB 1145 is that answer-that 'difference.' This bill will help future adult victims of sexual abuse crimes heal from their disabling mental condition that has kept them from seeking justice. The current statutes of limitations run out at 3 years, that is often not enough time. Our current laws prevent many from getting justice. The perpetrator goes free, only to repeat his crime over and over.

HB 1145 does not target specific institutions or organizations. It is only aimed at targeting the perpetrator, no matter his title. Sexual abuse knows no boundaries.

The Americans with Disabilities Act gave all sorts of rights to those with physical disabilities, yet not one mention of those with disabling mental conditions.

"A miscarriage of justice" is what Nancy Grace once said, " statutes of limitations allow a perpetrator to go free."

We are so proud of our daughter for pursuing this bill for the justice of sexual abuse victims, for giving them time to heal, time to get strong, time to face what happened to them, time to face the perpetrator, time to seek justice.

It has not been an easy journey, but Andrea has held steadfast and persevered.

Please vote a DO PASS for ND and all the future victims of sexual assault, let's give them a chance for justice, let's make ND a better place to live for future generations.

Thank you,

Harriette Rebsom

