

Good Morning Chairman Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee. It is good to be here today.

My name is Austen Schauer, a Representative from West Fargo, District 13.

Today, I appeal to you to bring the *opportunity for justice* to victims of child sexual abuse in North Dakota.

With a **Do Pass** on **House Bill 1382**, you can say to survivors of child abuse, “It was not your fault, we stand by you.”

And further, with a **Do Pass** on **HB 1382**, you can say to **child abusers**, “Your time of hiding has ended.”

HB 1382 creates a *two-year window* for past abuse victims giving them the option to file a civil lawsuit against the alleged perpetrator.

In other words, it suspends Statute of Limitations for a two-year period allowing victims to move forward with a civil suit if they so desire.

On page one, lines 12 to 14, it says:

If on August 1st, 2021, a claim for relief that resulted from childhood sexual abuse is barred because of time limitation under subsection 1, that claim is revived.

A claim revived under this subsection must be commenced before August 1st, 2023.

Three lines of law, two sentences, that can knock down a wall of injustice built on despair, anger and a system that shuts the door on victims via a clock.

17 other states have extended this Open Window. It's now our turn.

Mr Chairman, we have several more people ready to give testimony on **HB 1382**, but I am certainly open to questions you may have.

Thank you.