

The Honorable Lawrence R. Klemin, Chair
And Honorable Members of the House of Judiciary Committee
The North Dakota Legislature
ND State Capitol
600 E. Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 58505-0360

RE: HB 1382

Leslie Brunette Testimony: **IN SUPPORT OF HB 1382** – SOL Reform

Good morning, thank you for the opportunity to share my authentic voice **in support** of HB 1382.

My name is Leslie Brunette, current resident of West Fargo, ND.

I am survivor of childhood sexual abuse, timeline 1977-1987, Abuser: my father. For over 2 decades I have been a passionate advocate of preventing child sexual abuse in ND. Today, I am asking you to vote **in favor of SOL reform**.

WHY: Your **YES** will give the restorative gifts of voice, agency*, closure, and justice to victims previously unable to share their story. *Agency defined as the capacity of individuals to feel in control of one's own life. This is often traumatically stolen from us as victims of childhood sexual abuse!

Every story deserves to be heard and every victim deserves the **CHOICE** to share their story **WHEN** they are ready. Some may never be ready to share and that's ok. It is **not acceptable** however to prescribe an "expiration" date for our stories. **Passing this bill** will be the hope infusing invitation some victims have been hopelessly waiting for!

My story was heard as a child and my perpetrator was put in prison ending the sexual abuse. The memories exist to this day; however, the intensity of the anger, fear and shame have diminished because I was able to speak my truth and directly influence the end of my childhood trauma. There are authentic voices that did not have the same option and as a result have lived with the unresolved trauma for years. Often suppressing the memories and enduring the lifelong effects of the abuse as documented in ACES, Adverse Childhood Experiences Study. [The Relation Between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adult Health: Turning Gold into Lead - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

I speak with courage and candor requesting each of your votes **in support** of this bill. Please give the untold stories of childhood sexual abuse their **VOICE**! It is never too late for perpetrators to be held accountable.

Respectfully,

Leslie A Brunette