

Honorable Senators

My name is Steven Charles Shipp and I am a 59 year survivor of sexual abuse.

I am speaking to you today regarding the outdated and irresponsible 2006 Statute of Limitation Law for any sexual abuse victims in Ohio. It is my understanding that a bill is before you to repeal this law. Many states including New York, New Jersey, Maine, Vermont, Arkansas, Louisiana, Colorado, and California have changed similar laws. Governor DeWine and Columbus Mayor Coleman have stated they agree with these states' decision. As one of the participants in the Boy Scouts of America abuse lawsuit, I personally know that the age of my abuse and the effect it has had on every aspect of my life, supports the repeal of this law.

As a baby boomer who has dealt with the adverse personality behavior stemming from my BSA abuse (1962-1969), I find the statute of limitation for these crimes a personal insult. I wish I could personally convey to each of you the minute details of how my life has been affected and how I have subconsciously reacted to that abuse.

To list a few:

- I have subjected myself to long term relationships that focused on control, physical, mental, and sexual abuse
- I could not be faithful to any partner from 1983 to 2001
- I was addiction to sex, alcohol, drugs, and spending
- I was constantly engaging in high risks activities
- I have thought of taking my own life many times over the years
- I was constantly striving for personal and professional approval

Therapy in the late 80's helped me reconcile the sexual abuse I received from three specific individuals that happened after I left scouting but before I was 18 years old.

After years of therapy, my therapist still could not figure out why I had this roadblock that would better my results in therapy. I was still guilty of all the activities I mentioned above. Therapy stopped.

Fortunately, in 2001 I met my husband. With his help and understanding (none of my family or even my closest friends knew my story) I was able to stop almost all my bad behavior and I have been drug-free since 2010, I still have an issue with constant striving for personal and professional approval.

In June 2020, an advertisement on TV asking, "were you abused as a boy scout?" tore open the wound the therapist had been searching for. My husband found me crying and collapsed on the family room floor. With this new revolution of abuse, the memories flooded back and the proud memories of Scouting activities and being the youngest Scout in Licking County history to receive the rank Eagle and Order of the Arrow honors were also ruined.

The healing has started but, the past two years have greatly affected all aspects of my life. But, at 71 years old, I doubt I have time to completely heal.

No one can know the effects that sexual abuse has on someone. And honestly, I would not wish them on even my worst enemy, even my abusers. I also know that no amount of money received will take away my, or anyone's, pain from abuse. But why should the organization that I, and my parents trusted, take my innocence, and damage my future.

I gave the above speech to the Ohio House of Representatives Committee for this bill in March of this year. I saw myself on television and was disgusted. The result forced me to deep depression. I was almost to the point where I contemplated extreme measures or using drugs again to ease my pain. Fortunately, my husband picked up on my mood change and with the help of a good friend, pulling in some professional favors, I got into a sexual abuse counselor within a week.

The results have been amazing. I have lost 60 pounds, recognized some of my demons(triggers) and learned I need to be present, patient, and flexible in my day-to-day life. In general, the therapy has been positive. But there have been some downsides.

- Through regression therapy I recalled I was raped over 300+ times over a 6-year period.
- If I get startled, it has lead to a panic attack. I have had several. One of the attacks sent my blood pressure so high my husband thought I was having another heart attack and was rushed to the hospital.
- I have had one complete breakdown that almost ended up with me being taken to Harding Hospital
- I am not able to be intimate with my husband.
- The therapy costs \$200 a session. We are on a fixed income and Medicare does not pay for mental health issues

For the reasons stated above, I ask for your support of this bill. No one can know the effects that sexual abuse has on someone. And honestly, I would not wish them on even my worst enemy. I also know that no amount of money received will take away my, or anyone's, pain from abuse. But why should the organization that I, and my parents trusted, take my innocence, and damage my future.

I recommend that all of you watch the new Netflix documentary "Scouts Honor the secret files of the Boy Scouts of America". Not for the shock value but to listen to the words of the "whistle blower" and the words of the Boy Scout's General Counsel. To me, the "whistle blower" comments were shocking, but the General Counsel comments, attitude, and denials were insulting to all of us who were abused.

Personally, the urgency of the bill is critical. The sooner the national case is settled, the more healing help I can receive. Hopefully someday, I will not have to worry every day if one of my triggers will send me into a spiral I will not recover from.

Thank you for your time.