

I stand here a 50-year-old man, but haunted by things that happened 35 years ago. As a teenager in the Boy Scouts, our scoutmaster was giving us alcohol/whiskey, and then putting in porno movies on a cigarette lighter plug-in television and other magazines. It was like there were two separate troops, and the scoutmaster was always selectively grooming victims and separating them from other scouts. As I come to learn after the fact; in 1990, he attempted to groom the wrong child. When he approached as a candidate, he proceeded to tell his parents in which his dad grabbed his gun, got in his truck and straight to the scoutmaster's house. Knowing this was real situation, his mother called the cops, and police arrived at the house before the father. They arrested the scoutmaster on the spot. Being I live one block from the scoutmaster, had that been my dad, the result would have been different, likely doing what any parent would do if this was happened to your son.

In 1990, the thought of pursuing anything regarding this case was a foreign concept; even discussing would be taboo. When first approached by my parents that there was a case against the scoutmaster, I lied and told them I knew nothing. The next day, I had a date with a detective assigned to the case. All appointments staggered, so scouts didn't see each other. It didn't take long to realize the detective had all he needed. I was asked to identify materials, but as a minor, needed my parents' approval. The detective went to the waiting room and get my parent's permission. So, among all other things, I live with feeling I lied to my parents and they had to hear this from someone else. In an effort to "protect" scouts, our testimony statements got a plea deal conviction on much lesser charges; not including alcohol. He did 15 years in prison. It should have been more and he is now out, but in an effort to protect the victims, we did not testify in the court and the charges were less. As far as the BSA was concerned, the matter was over. The system got the conviction they wanted, but the problem of sexual abuse within the Boy Scouts was never addressed; nor did anyone show any concern for the victims. To this day, I never heard one thing from the BSA, apology or otherwise.

Regarding the trust: This is a bankruptcy settlement; we will not be facing our abusers but dealing with the negligence of the BSA. In 1988, there was a complaint to the BSA which they found no evidence and created parameters which were not followed. Their inaction led to the events of 1990. This settlement is the BSA's attempt to right their wrongs and systemic breakdowns of the past and still remain a viable organization through the bankruptcy settlement and prevent future liability from this time period. \$2.7 billion sounds large, but with over 80,000 claims comes out to \$33,000 per claimant. Could we imagine the dollars if these were brought via civil? In my scenario, had something been done at the time of the abuse, all of us scouts involved could have conservatively gotten a \$1 million. Under the trust parameters, I likely fall in the range of \$250,000, but \$80,000 because my abuse happened in Ohio. One scaling factor in the settlement is tied to the SOL laws which govern each individual state. Ohio is way behind in this category and falls in a range of 30-45%. I thank Representatives Seitz and Miranda who put their differences aside on the greater SOL issues and found common ground to fix this injustice and create HB 35, the "Scouts Honor Bill." This puts us on equal footing with other states and allows us to make an equal claim into this bankruptcy settlement in which the BSA voluntarily agreed to. We had unanimous support in the Civil Justice Committee in the House and the Bill passed unopposed on the House Floor. I ask you will please pass "The Scout's Honor" Bill and not have the over 1900 Ohio victims of childhood sexual abuse be punished because it happened in Ohio.

Thank you for your time.