

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Mary Hummel, I'm in support of house bill 322 and would appreciate you hearing my story. The earliest memory I have of being sexually abused by my father is kindergarten. I didn't have words or understand what was happening, I just knew it made me feel horrible. As the years passed, I was molested numerous times, and watched by my father while taking showers. I often wondered if this is what fathers do to their daughters. I didn't have a close emotional relationship with my mom, however she did see me crying once as a young teen, I explained that he had been watching me in the shower. She did yell at him to leave, but returned the next day. I can vividly recall him saying to me, that was a pretty strong accusation against me you told your mom, she just stood there, I was victimized again. Nothing was ever done to him. I had extremely low self esteem for most of my life, have made poor choices in men, didn't know how to set boundaries or feel valued. At age 61, after many years of therapy, I'm getting there. My mom eventually divorced my dad, he went on to remarry a younger woman with 3 small children. I reached out to the oldest child around 5 years ago on Facebook, she is in her 40's now, he had sexually molested the 2 girls and 1 son. All of them struggle with substance abuse, and all of the negative effects that come along with it. Their mom eventually found out, but chose to stay with him. I know my story isn't an isolated one, at this point if the state can prevent one child from being abused with help from the grooming law, it would all be worth it. I do see a ton of value getting it passed to stop predators before they get past the grooming aspect. Sexual child abuse is an epidemic, we should be talking more and protecting more.

Thank you,
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