



September 18, 2023

Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee
Attn: State Senator Nathan Manning; Brendon Embry; Senate Judiciary Committee
77. S. High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Email: Manning@ohiosenate.gov; Brendon.Embry@ohiosenate.gov

Re: H.B. 35 - *Scouts Honor Law - Victim's Testimony*
Claim No.: 1227
1st Amended to Claim No.: 106057

Dear Ohio Senators and Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee, please be advised that I represent claimants In Re Boy Scouts of America Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. As you already know, the matrix formula incorporated from the agreed-modified bankruptcy plan allows Ohioans to recover only 30-45% of their original claim. My clients and I were disappointed to hear the bill did not pass during the 134th last session and its last session to vote, as the bill was one stage away from going to the governor. However, I was impressed with the initial progress of the Honor Scout bill by the 135th General Assembly, as it was making continuous strides from the beginning of this year until early Summer. Unfortunately, since then and after months of stalemate of H.B. 35, my clients and I are disappointed and disrespected that the Ohio legislatures are not actively seeking a resolution to their constituents. This bill serves as justice not to just the victims, but it will assure more safety precautions for our children. But since it's not passed, it not only continues to fester anger and mental trauma to my client, but it is enforcing them to relive these memories and the sexual abuse that occurred to them. This is highly unusual when the bill has bipartisan support, as it was passed in the House with votes of 95-0.

John Doe – Victim's Testimony

I grew up as a resident in Wooster city, Wayne County, Ohio. During a criminal trial, after I gave my compelling testimony, my abuser was sentenced for life in prison and was charged guilty on over 19-sex-abuse charges against minors. The hope of this testimony is not to provide myself a resolution to my claim, but to ensure that this abuse never, ever occurs again to another young child participating in this organization.

In vague detail: I was only **8 years old** when my abuser first took advantage of me. The abuse lasted for many years and every day since then has been a struggle. As an 8-year-old boy, I was traumatically scarred for life. I ended up staying in the organization for a few more years, where I vividly remember my abuser molesting a 6-month-old child. This abuser was a demon, and I did everything I could to put him away forever for the safety of the young children he preyed on.

When the overwhelming, sickening abuse started to settle down in my head, the lawsuits against BSA were starting to come. While I am pleased that after nearly three decades, the organization is finally being held account for the thousands of boys they abused, it is mentally, physically, and emotionally tolling on me and my mental health. I had moments of peace in my life, but now as this organization is dragging this lawsuit into a bankruptcy proceeding, and essentially for a handful of more years, the mental anguish of having to re-live and retell my story is taking a heavy toll on me forcing me to re-live and tell the details of my abuse.

The sole hope of my testimony is to push for Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee to bring H.B. 35 to the floor to vote on. So, the remaining thousands of abusers and I may continue to file our claims, and with the passage of H.B. 35, it will provide us our fair compensation for our abuse and most importantly, it will provide me and the other victims of sexual abuse cessation from the decades of our pain and torture of keeping the abuse and events all bottled up.

I urge all members of the Ohio State Judiciary Committee to bring H.B. 35 for a vote and pass it, so that myself and the other thousands of survivors that were abused, will finally have legal closure to the abuse, neglect, and severe and permanent damaged caused by the organization.

Lastly, I am not only writing for myself, but for the thousands of the victims in Ohio and across the country that were taken advantaged, and just as vital to protect other mother and father's children from any sexual abuse.