



April 4, 2019

SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests
PO Box 56539
Saint Louis MO, 63156

Vermont Senate Committee on Judiciary
Sen. Dick Sears Jr., Chair
Sen. Alice W. Nitka, Vice Chair
Sen. Jeanette K. White
Sen. Joe Benning
Sen. Philip Baruth

Dear Senators:

We represent SNAP, the [Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests](#). We have been providing support for victims of child sexual abuse in institutional settings for more than 30 years. There are more than 25,000 survivors and supporters in our network.

Our organization supports the proposed changes to Vermont law contained in H.330, which is currently with your committee. These changes would reflect the realities of sexual violence against children. That is, survivors often take decades to come forward about their abuse – [the average age of a victim coming forward is 52](#) – but when they do speak out they are often barred from seeking justice by abuser-friendly statutes of limitations.

When the courthouse doors are closed to survivors, children are at risk from the “hidden predators” that victims are unable to expose. When institutions that harbor these dangerous men and women are not held accountable, they will continue to put their reputation ahead the safety of children.

We urge you to approve H.330. Send it out of committee and allow the full Senate to vote on this important, life-saving measure.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zach Hiner".

Zach Hiner
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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Lennon".

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melanie Sakoda".

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