

Dear Chairperson Martin LaLonde and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing today to voice my support of the S.190, an act relating to statements made by a child victim of an offense involving serious bodily injury.

Throughout my 47 years of work in the field of child abuse prevention and intervention I have witnessed the great need for a bill like this to protect children who have already been egregiously abused and whose testimony will help to protect them and perhaps other children as well. This bill ensures children will not be put at additional risk of retaliation and further harm by those who have perpetrated against them nor from others who may believe their interests are not served by a child's testimony.

You will be helping children be safe, heal and know they are cared for by their community by passing S.190. I urge you to pass this bill for the recovery and wellbeing of our most vulnerable children. Thank you.

On behalf of children and youth,

Linda E Johnson