

**February 11, 2020**

**House Judiciary Committee**

**Honorable Chair, Rep. Fred Patton**

**Kathi Rakestraw, Committee Assistant – (785)296-5805**

**Written Testimony in support of House Bill 2306**

**by Cecelia Simon (child sexual abuse Survivor)**

Dear Chair, Members of the Committee,

My name is Cecelia Simon. Thank you for allowing me to give my testimony regarding House Bill 2306. This is the first time I ever told my childhood history outside my childhood sexual abuse trauma therapist. In my story there will be no homecoming queen, or sweet sixteen party. For legal purposes, time restraints, and public well-being the following is not in detail and I will spare you the ungodly graphic testimony which I experienced as a nine-year old girl.

I was raised in a small conservative town thirty minutes outside of Wichita, Kansas. When I was eight years old my adopted parents accepted a job as house-parents for a children's group home owned by a large religious institution. Administration, mental health, social workers, school, and female housing were located on a nineteen-acre campus. Located a few miles away were two separate houses for male juvenile delinquents. This group home provided twenty-four-hour care to juveniles from the criminal system, mental health facilities, and state hospitals. A few placements were private pay, but the majority were state funded. The goal was to reintegrate these delinquent juveniles back into society.

Initially my parents worked and lived in one of the female houses on the nineteen-acre campus. However, after a few months we were moved off campus to one of the male houses. At the age of nine years old, with the approval of licensed professionals employed by this religious group home, I lived twenty-four hours a day, five days a week with eight to ten male juvenile delinquents ranging in ages thirteen to eighteen years of age.

From nine to twelve years of age I was raped vaginally and sodomized, forced to perform oral copulation, tortured, coerced, threatened, and physically abused by these older male juvenile delinquents. They might as well have sent me to live in a prison environment and let the individuals convicted of molesting children raise me.

My adopted mother suffered from mental illness, making it easier for me to be groomed and impossible for me to ask for help. An undisputed fact -Sexually abused children do not have words, nor the power to tell, so they begin acting out. I was no different. At a young age I exhibited bed-wetting, lying, running away, below standard social and academic performance, depression, and anxiety symptoms. I was sent for counseling to the institution's male psychiatrist. This male psychiatrist also gave therapy to the male juvenile predators living in the house with me. Whenever, I showed these signs of distress my adopted mother lashed out at me with mental, emotional and physical abuse. For one of my punishments my adopted mother locked me in a storage room with no toilet, water, or lights. To stop this cruel punishment, I scratched the insides of my forearms until I was bleeding. She never locked me in that room again but a male administrator from campus was sent to spend time with me. I do not understand why they sent a strange man to spend time alone with a little girl. Of course, since I was groomed not to say anything, I could not find the strength to tell this strange adult male. I was so terrified and molded by the abuse of the male predators I could not even tell my adopted father. All I needed was for just one of these licensed professionals who worked for the institution to care enough or even use some common sense to look at my situation. The adult licensed professionals knew I was in trouble, they knew something was going on in that house with those male juvenile predators. These adult licensed professionals knew they were breaking laws, ignoring ethics and ignoring their responsibilities to a child. These adult licensed professionals made the choice to risk a little girl's safety and life to keep their money and status. The institutions and authorities in town believed lies told by my adopted mentally ill mother, the older male juvenile delinquents, the professionals employed by the religious institution, social workers and mental health providers employed by the religious institution. I was labeled white-trash, crazy, a liar, stupid, worthless, a sinner, and a whore. Teachers, law enforcement and medical providers, in that small conservative town turned their backs on a little girl that needed help. At a young age I learned that the predators were right: no one would ever believe me, no one would help me, not even God. They took my virginity, my innocence, a huge piece of my soul that I will never recover.

As a result of my tragic childhood my teen years were spent surviving further sexual victimization, drug abuse, an eating disorder, violence and teen pregnancy. Alone as a young adult, single mother of two children, I survived poverty, and domestic violence. I battled becoming a statistical victim of our; financial, religious, criminal, medical, mental health, educational and political systems not designed to assist helping sexual abuse survivors. Now at the age of forty-nine I am struggling to understand and learning to apply a working definition of the word, "safe".

My whole life I spent alone fighting and surviving this tragic story. I suppressed the traumatic events of my childhood so that I could try to live like everyone else. Off and on throughout my life, I have sought professional help involving other issues which were without a doubt manifested by the initial trauma as a little girl. I never once dove into the root cause while in therapy as these memories were suppressed and buried deep. I struggled with suicide ideation for 41 years not understanding it, never telling anyone, not even my husband. Six years ago, during one of my therapy sessions I merely mentioned the group home without knowing my whole story. As a result, the therapist wrote about it in her notes.

At the age of forty-eight for the first time in my life I ended up in the emergency room on suicide watch. We finally became aware of why I needed help and most important the specialized sexual trauma treatment I need to begin healing. Bittersweet as it was, this life-threatening event brought together some of the repressed missing pieces of my story. As a result, I began intense therapy during the past year and half with a therapist that specializes in sexual abuse. Through the specialized trauma therapy, I found the inner strength and turned to the courts to help my family and I receive some type of justice holding the institution liable and responsible for protecting a child. This institution, licensed to be child experts, licensed to protect the most vulnerable broke several laws. They allowed a nine-year-old little girl to live with known male juvenile delinquent predators. They did not allow those males to be alone with girls their same age, they even had school on campus to protect the community's children. So why would they allow a little girl to stay and sleep in the same house with these documented "monsters"? Due to the misrepresentation of a sentence as mentioned in a prior paragraph, my case was dismissed because of the current Kansas Civil Statute of Limitations which in effect says, "sorry, survivor you did not heal in time."

According to current leading experts the average age of discovery is fifty-two years old. It took me forty-one years to reveal the fragments of my story as a child which I am still in the process of discovery. At the age of forty-nine as a childhood sexual abuse Survivor suffering with post traumatic injury I am faced with an uncertain recovery. I will not ever be able to recover the time I lost nor will I be able to give it back to my family; my brave, beautiful family that painfully stood sheltering me from further harm also deserves justice.

Leading statistics still report ninety percent of survivors never come forward. I am coming forward asking for your help with House Bill 2306. Allow the stories of myself, other survivors and their families, to finally be told in court so that we can help lift the burden by identifying child predators and the institutions that hide behind the current Kansas Civil Statute of Limitations. Society's need to identify and apprehend child

predators does not expire with time. A childhood sexual abuse Survivors access to justice should not either. Support House Bill 2306; Abolish the current childhood sexual abuse Kansas Civil SOL for all childhood sexual abuse acts effective on the date it is signed.

Please help me to have the opportunity to face in court those who are liable, responsible and gave aid in the taking of my childhood, to hold those accountable who had legal responsibility of protecting a child and to not allow anyone or any institution to be able to hide behind the current law.

“If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.”

— Sun Tzu, The Art of War

Thank you for your time,  
Cecelia Simon- child sexual abuse Survivor

Attached is a list of individuals who have signed a Change.org letter in support of HB 2306.

## **change.org**

Recipient: Fred Patton, Bradley Ralph, John Carmichael, Emil Bergquist, Jesse Burris, Pam Curtis, Randy Garber, Dennis "Boog" Highberger, Susan Humphries, Annie Kuether, Stephen Owens, Mark Samsel, Kellie War...

Letter: Greetings,

Support House Bill 2306

Abolish the current Civil Statute of Limitations for all acts of Child Sexual Abuse in Kansas starting on the date the bill is signed.

Allowing our stories to be heard in court will help us create better institutional practice policies and laws protecting our most vulnerable. Society's need to identify and apprehend child predators does not expire with time. A Survivor's access to justice should not either.

# Signatures

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
Cecelia Simon	Gloucester, MA	2020-01-08
Dg Phillips	Pittsburgh, US	2020-01-08
Myles Simon	Springfield, MA	2020-01-08
Maurice Erp	Ogallala, US	2020-01-08
Angel Cakir	Trenton, US	2020-01-08
Jimmy Brando	US	2020-01-08
Emma Foremaster	New Orleans, US	2020-01-09
Mohsen Ayaz	North Bergen, US	2020-01-09
Jonny Gomez	Phoenix, US	2020-01-09
Celia Marroquin	Mcallen, US	2020-01-09
Erica Czolpinski	Gloucester, MA	2020-01-09
ELAINE KALLAUS	Newton, KS	2020-01-09
Mark Otto	Newton, KS	2020-01-09
Kristina Lawson	Loves Park, US	2020-01-09
lillie ransom	Orange, US	2020-01-09
Lee Pennet	Newton, KS	2020-01-09
Erika Lally	Belmont, MA	2020-01-09
Mariamou Conteh	Minneapolis, US	2020-01-09
Holly Chiancola	Gloucester, MA	2020-01-09
Solimar Garcia	Norfolk, PR	2020-01-09

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
Mary McMichael	Wichita, US	2020-01-09
Marisol Molina	Pepperell, MA	2020-01-09
Chassidy Cruz	Bronx, US	2020-01-09
Brianna Merritt	Frankton, US	2020-01-10
Travis Martines	Centereach, US	2020-01-10
Carmen Thomas	San Francisco, US	2020-01-10
Heather Sandlin	Preston, US	2020-01-10
Jayden Shipman	Erie, US	2020-01-10
Alan Pulido	San Antonio, US	2020-01-10
Nichole Mattei	San Juan, US	2020-01-10
Jaxon Emmons	Meridian, US	2020-01-10
Dak Deines	Dodge city, KS	2020-01-10
Lakreasha Simmons	Jackson, US	2020-01-10
Miranda Cox	Rockford, IL	2020-01-10
MARGARET Mary Reantaso	Salem, US	2020-01-10
Erin Baze	Yukon, OK	2020-01-10
Emma Walker	Harvard, IL	2020-01-10
Crystal Brown	Dodge City, KS	2020-01-10
Abby Gentry	Rockford, IL	2020-01-10
Erik Simon	Gloucester, MA	2020-01-10
Saanvi D	Troy, US	2020-01-10
Wyatt Fink	Billings, US	2020-01-10

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
Amanda Craig	Greenville, SC	2020-01-10
Melissa Urquidi	Honolulu, HI	2020-01-10
Mickashell Knapp	Meade, KS	2020-01-10
Matthew Craig	South Elgin, IL	2020-01-11
Robin Pierce	New York, NY	2020-01-11
Dawn Knoll	Olathe, KS	2020-01-11
Rebecca Coffin	Rockford, IL	2020-01-11
zoro roranora	Cheshire, US	2020-01-11
Natalia Vanosdol	North Vernon, US	2020-01-11
Dylan Arnold	Cleveland, US	2020-01-11
I R ANDY MCBRIDE,	Lagrange, US	2020-01-11
Olivia Santamauro	Howell, US	2020-01-11
Karen Newbould	Grand Junction, CO	2020-01-11
Natalie Smith	Fort Lauderdale, US	2020-01-11
Dachele Davis-Tisdale	Sacramento, CA	2020-01-11
Ivan Tumusiime	Dallas, US	2020-01-11
Susan Wardle	Clearwater, KS	2020-01-11
Rafael Navarro	Newton, KS	2020-01-11
kimberly fahlbeck	Rockford, IL	2020-01-11
Maria Alfonso	Miami, US	2020-01-11
Greg Brown	Newton, KS	2020-01-11
Stacey Dennett	Grinnell, IA	2020-01-12

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
Abby Gauna	Wichita, KS	2020-01-12
Paula Castilo	Matawan, US	2020-01-12
Leslie Kimbrough	Flintville, US	2020-01-12
Kelli Kahrl	Chesapeake, VA	2020-01-13
Lance Morgan	Aspermont, US	2020-01-13
Crystal Carmichael	Los Lunas, US	2020-01-13
Robyn Carlson	Gilbert, US	2020-01-13
Madeleine Pluhar	Winchester, MA	2020-01-15
Leah Huk	west falls, US	2020-01-16
Stephen Tyree	US	2020-01-16
Anita Kanitz	Stuttgart, Germany	2020-01-17
Julie Warren	Knoxville, US	2020-01-21
Tamera Smith	Burrton, KS	2020-01-25
Ghabriel Williams	Tacoma, US	2020-01-25
Moolah Bred	Milwaukee, US	2020-01-26
Jasmine Ballou	chico, US	2020-01-26
Jamie Eades	Kingsport, US	2020-01-26
Danielle Luna	Wvc, US	2020-01-26
Charles Goemans	Middle Island, US	2020-01-26
Rachelle Spruce	Akron, US	2020-01-26
Timothy Duncan	Pittsburgh, US	2020-01-26
Selam Tewolde	Riverview, US	2020-01-26



<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
Ezekiel Sabb	Sicklerville, US	2020-01-27
Jean Mitchell	Augusta, KS	2020-01-27
ian vann	Fair Lawn, US	2020-01-27
Mason Watson	Newark, US	2020-01-27
Karen Nelson	Bon Secour, US	2020-01-27
Corey Holt	Newport News, US	2020-01-27
Makhi Simonson	Columbia, US	2020-01-27
Jose Reynoso	Santa Ana, US	2020-01-27
Madelyn Holloway	West Memphis, US	2020-01-27
jahseh onfroy	Los Angeles, US	2020-01-27
Zachary Turner	Henderson, US	2020-01-27
kazi hossain	Allentown, US	2020-01-27
Griffin Maskell	Jericho, US	2020-01-27
Chris Beal	Cohoes, US	2020-01-27
Cristin Garner	Burbank, US	2020-01-27
Jake Groft	Hanover, US	2020-01-27
Brandon Zobrist	Las Vegas, US	2020-01-27
Kainen Mccully	Newport, US	2020-01-27
Nunya Business	Modesto, US	2020-01-27
Ben Litwin	Champlin, US	2020-01-27
Lucas Walker	Jasper, US	2020-01-27
Liana Cruz	Tampa, US	2020-01-27

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
Victor Ortiz	Deptford, US	2020-01-27
tricia simpson	Kansas City, US	2020-01-27
Bradyn Shaw	Windham, US	2020-01-27
Kayvon Moody	Fairfax, US	2020-01-27
Niloofar Parva	Fremont, US	2020-01-28
Maya Tyre	Fort Mill, US	2020-01-28
Bliss Trucchio	New York, US	2020-01-28
Louie Cortez	Baldwin Park, US	2020-01-28
Arooj Munir	Brooklyn, US	2020-01-28
Desaree Monique Alvarado	Los Angeles, US	2020-01-28