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**PRESS CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS A SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVOR'S MEETING
WITH CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH'S BISHOP DAVID DUBIK**

Bishop Zubik agrees to support the abolition of the statute of limitations for all sex abuse survivors

PITTSBURGH, PA-

Earlier today, Dennis McKeown, a public advocate for sexual assault victims and a former sexual assault victim himself, met with Bishop David A. Zubik, along with McKeown's wife and a diocese representative, to discuss the Bishop's stance on repealing the statute of limitations for sexual assault survivors in Pennsylvania.

Currently, victims over the age of 18, at the time of abuse, have two years to file a civil claim before the statute of limitations expires. Victims who have experienced abuse under the age of 18, however, have 12 years after the date of their 18th birthday to file a civil claim.

While discussing the current statute of limitations, Bishop Zubik indicated to Mr. McKeown a willingness to publicly support the repeal. Bishop Zubik elaborated that his support for the repeal of the statute of limitations extends to all victims of sexual abuse, not only those from the Catholic Diocese.

An existing alternative to the proposed statute of limitations legislation exists in the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, as well as other dioceses around the Commonwealth: The Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program (IRCP). IRCP was implemented as an effort to handle claims involving sexual abuse of minors by clergy.

However, the IRCP has exclusionary language that prevents victims of sexual abuse by teachers or other employees of the Diocese from filing claims, including catholic school teachers, nuns, or monks. It states, "individuals who allege sexual abuse as a minor by a member of a religious order or lay teachers and employees of the Diocese are not eligible to participate in the Program." Additionally, those that accept such a claim waive their right to sue the Diocese in the future.

The press conference will be held on Friday, March 29, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. on the 8th Floor of the Gulf Tower, 707 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. The law firm of Robert Peirce & Associates, P.C. has represented the rights of the injured and victimized for over 30 years and represents numerous victims in similar situations.