

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Human Services
For HB 4267

Compiled on: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 10:01 PM

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Hearing Date: April 18, 2023 8:00 AM

Chris Donofrio

Self / Long-term sexual abuse victim
The Woodlands, TX

I strongly oppose HB 4267.
I urge you to let it die in committee.

As a victim of long-term sexual abuse, this bill troubles me. It seems to reflect the point-of-view of the abuser. Victims have a point-of-view too.

Abuse destroyed what should have been normal psychological development. I lost a "normal childhood."

I was traumatized. Fifty years later I'm still traumatized and have been in therapy for years.

I experience triggers, including HB 4267, on a regular basis.

The sexual abuse I suffered will be with me until I die. It will never be "expunged."

For those whose identities are in the central registry of child abuse and neglect, I ask you this. The effects of your abuse destroys our identities, traumatizes for life, and creates pain that only we feel and understand. Your actions were not some transient set of events in either your's or your victim's lives. You may have served time in prison, or spent time in therapy to reform you. But you still are forever accountable for your actions and their consequences. Why then do you believe anything in your post-abuse life exonerates you from what you did? No, your identity as an abuser should follow you until death.

Some may be able to forgive. But none should be allowed to forget your actions.

As for those who support HB 4267, I ask you this. Child abuse and neglect are inflicted upon the most vulnerable members of society. They rupture all pretense of social norms and security. Can you look me in the eye and truthfully tell me that my experiences of rape, objectification, being someone's pleasure toy, are worth less than expunging the names of those who used me as their plaything?

Respectfully,
Chris J. Donofrio