



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Archbishop
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

July 16-17, 2016

Dear Friends,

Previously I've shared information with you about the commitment of our local Church to assist survivors of sexual abuse and to prevent such abuse from taking place. I've also shared information about House Bill 1947 and its potential to devastate our parishes, schools, and charitable ministries. Many of you contacted your elected officials to voice your concerns about this matter in a respectful way and I'm very thankful to you for doing that.

Today, I'm sharing an update on the status of this legislation. House Bill 1947 was the subject of a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in Harrisburg last month. Following the committee's determination that the retroactive provision was unconstitutional, an amended version of the bill was considered by the full senate. The amendment stripped the retroactive provisions pertaining to the civil statute of limitations covering sexual abuse. The senate voted unanimously in favor of the amended version of the bill.

The amended bill must now be reconsidered by the members of the House of Representatives, which we expect will take place in the fall.

When additional information becomes available I will give you a clear update. Please join me in praying for all of our elected officials who work hard to serve our communities each day. Again, thank you and May God bless you all.

Sincerely yours in Jesus Christ,

+ Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia