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Letters to the Editor

Our children need the protection S.B. 29 promises

As a nationally certified child development counselor in public schools for 15 years, I have first hand knowledge of the negative effects of sexual abuse on a child's self-worth.

The sexually abused children who work with counselors have the opportunity to regain their self-esteem, but not all children who are victims of sexual abuse have had this opportunity.

Children often do not reveal instances of abuse for various reasons, including fear of retaliation or the fear of not being believed. Consequently, many adults who had their innocence stolen in childhood by a sexual predator have suppressed the painful memories of the abuse.

These victims deserve the opportunity to seek justice whenever the memory surfaces. The Delaware legislature should pass S.B. 29 to afford the victims of sexual abuse the opportunity they need for healing.

Susan Whitcraft, Elkton, MD

Sexual abuse of kids is not a Catholic Diocese problem

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 29, the Child Victims Act.

Once again, the primary opponent of eliminating the two- year statute of limitations and allowing adult victims of childhood sexual abuse to bring civil suit is the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington. The Diocese once again assumes that the intention of this legislation is to attack the Catholic Church.

The overwhelming majority of cases of sexual abuse do not involve a Catholic priest. Sexual predators come in many stripes, including parents, step-parents, older siblings, neighbors, friends of the family, paramours of a single parent, babysitters, strangers, and, occasionally, a clergy-person.

How dare the Diocese self righteously and very publicly proclaim its support for this important legislation while secretly pulling out all the stops to squash it because of perceived threat to its finances.

James M. Walsh, Newark, DE