



CATHOLIC LEAGUE

*For Religious
and
Civil Rights*

October 4, 2018

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Hon. Bill Schuette
G. Mennen Williams Building
525 W. Ottawa Street
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Attorney General Schuette:

Your spokeswoman, Andrea Bitely, has reportedly told the media that your probe of Catholic dioceses in Michigan was prompted by the Pennsylvania grand jury report on offending priests. If this is true, I urge you not to stop with the Catholic Church: an investigation into the sexual abuse of minors in the public schools is badly needed.

Two years ago, *USA Today* issued a comprehensive report on sexual abuse in the public schools. The researchers rated every state in the nation: Michigan received an "F." It merited that score because it was deemed one of the worst states at keeping offending teachers out of the classroom. Amazingly, discipline records are not available, even for teachers who have had their licenses revoked.

Only 12 of the 50 states received an "F." Michigan earned that grade because of four factors: a) weak screening of prospective teachers b) weak mandatory reporting of teacher misconduct c) no information online about teacher disciplinary actions, and d) some of the records of teacher misconduct were not shared with other states.

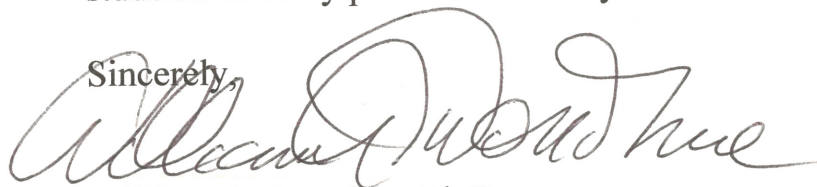
In 2017, just two Michigan teachers lost their license. By contrast, Texas revoked the licenses of 466 teachers and California took the licenses of 363 teachers.

It should not matter who abuses a minor—offenders should be treated equally. Moreover, every institution where adults and minors interact on a regular basis should at least be subject to a possible state investigation.

In the case of the public schools in Michigan—given their "F" rating—it is imperative that they be subject to a probe.

I urge you to launch a grand jury investigation into the sexual abuse of students in every public elementary and secondary school in the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William A. Donohue". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

William A. Donohue, Ph.D.

President