

March 31, 2020

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Gov. Cuomo:

Some are pushing for an extension of the Child Victims Act, citing delays attributed to coronavirus. That advice is misguided.

A news story of March 25 in the *Times-Union* says that "some survivors have faced difficulty finding attorneys coming to terms with their abuse." That is correct. Why? Because there is no money in it for lawyers who represent those victimized by an individual: the big money is gained by suing institutions, such as the Catholic Church.

The *Buffalo News* reported on February 16 that "more than 95% of the 350 lawsuits filed in Western New York have targeted institutions such as the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, school districts and the Boy Scouts of America." Victims' advocate Gary Greenberg explains that individuals "are disappointed because they thought the Child Victims Act was going to benefit them and they go to 10 lawyers and they get turned down."

The fact of the matter is that children are more likely to be sexually abused by someone in the home who is not their biological father than they are by the clergy or teachers. The "abusive boyfriend syndrome" is real, and no one is sticking up for their victims—there's no money in it.

That is why I implore you not to extend the deadline for the Child Victims Act. It will do nothing to help those who have already been rejected by lawyers, and will only continue the ideologically and economically driven agenda to "get the Church."

Sincerely,

William A. Donohue, Ph.D.
President

P.S. I did not have access to Catholic League letterhead because I am working from home during this time.