

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)  
Subject: Keep the Seal of Confession  
Date: Monday, 6 January 2020 4:05:20 PM

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Hello.

I am Nicole Elliott [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I am a young Catholic who is opposed to the laws insisting priests report abusers.

Sexual abuse is absolutely abhorrent. Those who abuse, regardless of the age of the victim, but most especially children, should "have a millstone tied around their necks and be thrown into the sea" as Our Lord talks about in the Bible for those who scandalise His little ones.

However, this law is only going to cause unnecessary harm. No good will become of forcing priests to report abuse.

- 1) Abusers do not go to confession anyway.
- 2) There is no way to police this law fairly. The only way to "check" would be to send phony penitents to confession to see if a priest reports this false case of abuse. If they do not report it and are charged, they can always argue that they had been tipped off to this fake penitent approaching.
- 3) Any priest who hears of such abuse is going to insist on the penitent following the law.
- 4) Confessions are anonymous.
- 5) Canon law forbids priests from breaking the seal. This will lead to priests before courts facing 'religious persecution by prosecution'.
- 6) The change would frighten off predators who might be encouraged by a priest in confession to report outside the Confessional.
- 7) Priests do in fact urge children to speak about mistreatment to an adult or authorities outside of confession.

Passing this law would unfairly and detrimentally target Catholics and would lead to unjust prosecution of Catholics. It is against Freedom of Religion. I will personally vote against any party who unfairly attacks the Church. For the record, I applaud any REASONABLE attempt to stamp out child abuse. Child sexual abuse is one of the most abhorrent crimes imaginable.

Sincerely,

Nicole Elliott