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TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS:
9 A.M.-4:30 P.M.



House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

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May 24, 2022

Dear Attorney General Shapiro,

In light of the recent developments regarding the Southern Baptist Church sexual abuse report and allegations of cover-ups, we strongly recommend that the Office of the Attorney General empanel a grand jury to investigate the full extent of these alleged crimes.

The news reported just this week is of such a disturbing nature and reminiscent of the Grand Jury reports ordered by your office in 2016 and 2018 on the Catholic Dioceses. The comprehensive findings of the Pennsylvania Report of the Statewide Investigative Grand Jury of the Catholic Dioceses in 2018 uncovered the widespread sexual abuse of children by priests, the egregious mishandling of their abuse, and the systematic cover-up spanning decades by senior church leaders in Pennsylvania and the Vatican. This report helped victims move forward by exposing their predators and shedding light on those who committed the heinous crimes against them as children.

In the report compiled by Guidepost Solutions LLC on the Southern Baptist Church, sex abuse survivors stated that their calls and emails were met with resistance and outright hostility by leaders who were more concerned with protecting the institution from liability than from exposing victims to further abuse. The report also stated there was no indication that the Southern Baptist Church took any action to ensure the accused ministers were no longer in positions of power. The Baptist chapter for Pennsylvania serves more than 300 churches and is headquartered just miles from the Capitol in Harrisburg. We cannot delude ourselves into thinking this type of despicable, criminal behavior has not occurred within our Commonwealth. We must hold all perpetrators accountable, especially those in positions of power, as well as those who covered up these crimes to protect themselves and the institutions they serve.

These victims deserve the respect of a full Pennsylvania Grand Jury investigation to expose their perpetrators and expose the leaders who aided and abetted these crimes as well as to ensure the accused ministers and the leaders who protected them are no longer in positions of power. We are confident you will take the necessary action, and we eagerly await your response to our recommendation for a full Grand Jury investigation.

Sincerely Yours,

Handwritten signature of Jim Gregory in black ink.

Jim Gregory
State Representative
80th Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Mark Rozzi in black ink.

Mark Rozzi
State Representative
126th Legislative District