
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 944 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY MURT, KIM, ROZZI, ULLMAN, DONATUCCI, MILLARD AND
HILL-EVANS, JULY 14, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, JULY 14, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Children and Youth Committee to establish a
2 subcommittee to investigate the alleged sexual abuse
3 committed by William McKendry while he was a teacher in the
4 Lower Merion School District.

5 WHEREAS, In the 1980's, William McKendry, a Social Studies
6 teacher in the Lower Merion School District, allegedly sexually
7 abused a female student, Elizabeth Goldman; and

8 WHEREAS, In addition to love letters, gifts, promises of
9 marriage, sexually explicit discourse and sexually explicit
10 correspondence, McKendry sexually assaulted and abused this
11 young woman on numerous occasions in 1985 and 1986; and

12 WHEREAS, Some of the assaults took place in the Bala Cynwyd
13 Middle School in Montgomery County; and

14 WHEREAS, When made aware of the abuse, the Lower Merion
15 School District settled this matter when a guidance counselor
16 directed McKendry and Goldman to avoid one another and stay on
17 their respective floors of the Bala Cynwyd Middle School; and

18 WHEREAS, At the time, and at no time since, no contact was
19 ever made with the Pennsylvania Department of Education; and

1 WHEREAS, No report of McKendry's actions to the Pennsylvania
2 Department of Education, nor revocation of McKendry's teaching
3 credentials were ever made; and

4 WHEREAS, McKendry was free to abuse again, and the children
5 of the school district were not afforded proper protection from
6 an admitted perpetrator of child sexual abuse; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1999, Goldman, then a medical student at Case
8 Western Reserve University, met with two administrators from the
9 Lower Merion School District and physically presented the
10 correspondence she received from McKendry; and

11 WHEREAS, Goldman was received by the administrators with
12 hostility and disdain and was threatened with not being
13 permitted to leave the building with the physical evidence she
14 had respectfully presented in good faith; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2005, Goldman again approached the Lower Merion
16 School District and was informed that "the Lower Merion School
17 District considers this matter closed"; and

18 WHEREAS, The Lower Merion School District refused further
19 discussions with Goldman, a victim of child sexual abuse by one
20 of their own teachers; and

21 WHEREAS, Despite his actions and admissions, McKendry was
22 still teaching in the Lower Merion School District at this time;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Our Commonwealth can no longer allow institutions to
25 turn a blind eye to the sexual exploitation of children they
26 should be protecting; and

27 WHEREAS, Author Carolyn Spring said "It was that culture of
28 denial that allowed my abuse to take place to start with. Did
29 you know it wasn't until 1984 that the Department of Health
30 added the category of 'sexual abuse' to its list of harms that

1 can befall children"; and

2 WHEREAS, This is a case of alleged sexual abuse by a teacher
3 which will not be resolved until the truth is known; therefore
4 be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
6 Children and Youth Committee to establish a subcommittee to
7 investigate the alleged sexual abuse committed by William
8 McKendry while he was a teacher in the Lower Merion School
9 District; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the subcommittee compile a report on its
11 findings and submit a written report to the House of
12 Representatives no later than December 31, 2020.