

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

To all:

I am so sorry. This morning I read the letters I wrote and I cringed. I was asked by David's family to write them. We thought we were doing the right thing, but we were not. If I understood then what I understand now, I never would have written them. That is not an excuse. I was wrong.

Specifically, I said that I did not think David would abuse again. I was wrong to say that. I understand now that I have no way of knowing that.

Particularly, I am sorry to the survivor of David's abuse. I understand that the letters I wrote minimized your suffering. I have thought of you many times over the years. You never should have faced what you faced.

I am sorry to all who have suffered abuse. I have heard your stories — thank you for sharing them. You are courageous. I am with you. When I was in grades 4 and 5, I was abused by an elementary school teacher. I still am not ready to talk about it. I know what you have suffered has affected your life. It has affected mine.

People are angry and I understand why. If you are able, please forgive me — although I understand if you cannot yet. Far too many people have been hurt for far too long. I do not want to hurt anyone. I want to help you heal.

I am so sorry for the hurt I have caused.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John Williver". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.