



State Rep. Michael P. McGeehan
D-Philadelphia
www.pahouse.com/McGeehan

State Rep. Louise Williams Bishop
D-Philadelphia
www.pahouse.com/Bishop

Bishop, McGeehan announce reintroduction of child sex abuse bills

HARRISBURG, Jan. 23 – Saying the move is long overdue and flanked by high-profile reform advocates, state Reps. Louise Williams Bishop and Michael P. McGeehan, both D-Phila., today announced a renewed push to update archaic statute-of-limitations laws in child sexual abuse cases at a Capitol Rotunda news conference.

Bishop and McGeehan said their respective bills are patterned after ones they introduced in the last two-year legislative session but died after being inexplicably bottled up in the committee process.

Bishop has reintroduced her legislation, now known as H.B. 237, which would abolish the statute of limitations on criminal charges and civil lawsuits in cases of child sexual abuse.

“Child sexual abuse victims are slowly beginning to break the barriers of silence; however, they still face a daunting procedural obstacle -- the statute of limitations,” said Bishop, who came out last year as a victim of child sexual abuse. “Instead of suppressing legislation that would lift the statute of limitations, we should be voting these game-changing bills out of committee and the House, so more victims can seek justice.”

McGeehan has introduced H.B. 238 that would suspend any expired statute of limitations for two years in child sex abuse cases, providing a window of opportunity for those victims to file a civil lawsuit. His bill also would seek to make child sexual abuse an exception to the sovereign immunity defense that shields public officials from being sued.

“The effects of child sex abuse are felt everywhere,” McGeehan said. “We are all victims. The scandals which have rocked school districts and dioceses across the country, Penn State, the Boy Scouts -- the problem clearly is not going away. Opponents of our measures need to rethink their positions and become part of the solution. Let’s get this done.”

Freshman state Rep. Mark Rozzi, D-Berks, a victim of child sexual abuse by a priest and prime co-sponsor of McGeehan’s legislation, said he is proud to stand as an ally of Bishop and McGeehan in this effort.

“Sexual abuse not only destroys the victim’s life, but its ripple effects can have a dramatic impact on family members and friends as well,” Rozzi said. “Often times the victims suffer in silence, and they see suicide as their only way out. It is now time to break the silence, let their voices be heard and end this vicious cycle of sexual abuse.”

A key supporter of the legislation, former Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne M. Abraham, said, "Recent revelations about decades of lies and cover-ups of child sexual abuse in the most respected organizations demonstrate the need for the progressive pieces of legislation offered by Representatives Bishop and McGeehan."

McGeehan praised Abraham for her courageous efforts in convening the exhaustive investigation of the Philadelphia Archdiocese in 2002, which actually empaneled three grand juries.

"To quote former Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo, she is one tough cookie," McGeehan said.

Professor Marci A. Hamilton of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University in New York, the author of "Justice Denied: What America Must Do to Protect its Children" and a former clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, praised the Bishop-McGeehan-Rozzi effort.

"Statue-of-limitations reform is empowering to victims and their families, and terrifying to pedophiles and their supporting institutions," said Hamilton, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania law school. "This legislation finally levels the playing field so that victims can come forward when they are ready -- and those creating the conditions for abuse are put on notice that they do not have a safe haven in an arbitrary legal technicality."

John Salveson, founder and president of the Foundation to Abolish Child Sex Abuse, said the reopening of a window to file civil suits – as called for by the McGeehan bill – can have a profound effect on public awareness.

"This week, the Los Angeles Times broke a story that Catholic Church officials concealed abuse involving 75 priests and 500 victims," Salveson said. "Those files were released as part of a civil action by child sex abuse victims covered by a one-year window in California that suspended the statute of limitations for past victims. No window, no trial. No trial, no documents. No documents, no exposure of predators. It's really that simple."

Other participants in today's Bishop-McGeehan news conference included:

- Jeff Dion, deputy executive director for the National Center for Victims of Crime;
- Tammy Lerner, vice president of the Foundation to Abolish Child Sex Abuse and a victim of familial child sexual abuse;
- Maureen Martinez, president of Justice for PA Kids;
- Robert Nelson, a victim of child sexual abuse by a coach/teacher; and
- Jim Polo, a child sexual abuse victim of a Boy Scout leader.

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CONTACT: Paul Sunyak
House Democratic Communications Office
Phone: 717-787-7895
Email: psunyak@pahouse.net

**Advocates of
House Bill 237 – (Bishop)
House Bill 238 – (Mc Geehan/Rozzi)**

The Awareness Center, INC.

The International Jewish Coalition Against Sexual Abuse/Assault. (JCASA)

Bikers Against Child Abuse

Bishop Accountability.org

Cardozo Advocates for Kids (CAK)

Catholic Accountability Project

Child Protection Project

Child Victim's Voice of Delaware

Coachedintosilence

Foundation to Abolish Child Sex Abuse, Inc.

International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA)

Jewish Board of Advocates for Children

Justice for Children

Justice for PA Kids

Justtell.org

The Leadership Council

MaleSurvivor.org

National Association of Adult Survivors of Child Abuse

National Association of Human Trafficking Victim Advocates

National Black Church Initiative (NCBI)

The National Center for Victims of Crime

National Crime Victim Bar Association (NCVBA)

National District Attorneys Association

Parents Reaching Out to Parents (PROP)

Parents for Megan's Law - The Crime Victim's Center

Patches Kids, Inc.

Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance

The Pennsylvania Gestalt Center

Rabbinical Council of America

Rape Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)

Road to Recovery

Safe 4 Athletes

Stop Educator Sexual Abuse Misconduct & Exploitation (S.E.S.A.M.E.)

Sister Maureen Paul Turlish, SNDdeN, (Delaware National Survivor Advocates Coalition)

Stop Child Sex Abuse

Stop the Silence

Survivors for Justice

Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests (SNAP)

Voice of the Faithful, Philadelphia

House Bill 238 (McGeehan)

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in limitation of time,
3 further providing for tolling limitations of civil actions;
4 and, in matters affecting government units, further providing
5 for exceptions to sovereign immunity and governmental
6 immunity.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 5533(b) of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania
10 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

11 § 5533. Infancy, insanity or imprisonment.

12 * * *

13 (b) Infancy.--

14 (1) (i) If an individual entitled to bring a civil
15 action is an unemancipated minor at the time the cause of
16 action accrues, the period of minority shall not be
17 deemed a portion of the time period within which the
18 action must be commenced. Such person shall have the same
19 time for commencing an action after attaining majority as

1 is allowed to others by the provisions of this
2 subchapter.

3 (ii) As used in this paragraph, the term "minor"
4 shall mean any individual who has not yet attained 18
5 years of age.

6 (2) (i) If an individual entitled to bring a civil
7 action arising from childhood sexual abuse is under 18
8 years of age at the time the cause of action accrues, the
9 individual shall have a period of [12] 32 years after
10 attaining 18 years of age in which to commence an action
11 for damages regardless of whether the individual files a
12 criminal complaint regarding the childhood sexual abuse.

13 (ii) For the purposes of this paragraph, the term
14 "childhood sexual abuse" shall include, but not be
15 limited to, the following sexual activities between a
16 minor and an adult, provided that the individual bringing
17 the civil action engaged in such activities as a result
18 of forcible compulsion or by threat of forcible
19 compulsion which would prevent resistance by a person of
20 reasonable resolution:

21 (A) sexual intercourse, which includes
22 penetration, however slight, of any body part or
23 object into the sex organ of another;

24 (B) deviate sexual intercourse, which includes
25 sexual intercourse per os or per anus; and

26 (C) indecent contact, which includes any
27 touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of the
28 person for the purpose of arousing or gratifying
29 sexual desire in either person.

30 (iii) For purposes of this paragraph, "forcible

1 compulsion" shall have the meaning given to it in 18
2 Pa.C.S. § 3101 (relating to definitions).

3 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a civil
4 action that would be permitted to be filed pursuant to
5 paragraph (2), but for the time limitation contained in
6 paragraph (2) to commence an action for damages or any other
7 statute of limitations, is revived, and such a civil action
8 may be commenced within two years of the effective date of
9 this paragraph. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed
10 to alter the applicable statute of limitations period of a
11 civil action arising from childhood sexual abuse that is not
12 time barred as of the effective date of this paragraph.

13 (4) If a person committing an act of childhood sexual
14 abuse against a minor was employed by an institution, agency,
15 firm, business, corporation or other public or private legal
16 entity that owed a duty of care to the victim, or the accused
17 and the minor were engaged in some activity over which the
18 entity had some degree of responsibility or control, damages
19 against the entity shall be awarded under paragraph (3) only
20 if there is a finding of gross negligence on the part of the
21 entity.

22 (5) If an individual or the individual's legal
23 representative has previously brought a civil action arising
24 from childhood sexual abuse and that suit has been dismissed
25 because it was filed beyond the statute of limitations that
26 applied at that time, the individual or the individual's
27 legal representative may petition the court to reopen the
28 action within the period provided in paragraph (3). The court
29 may grant the petition if it determines that any of the
30 following exist:

1 (i) The victim of the childhood abuse was under 30
2 years of age at the time the statute of limitations
3 expired.

4 (ii) The existence of newly discovered evidence
5 that, with reasonable diligence, could not have been
6 discovered before the prior statute of limitations
7 expired.

8 (iii) Fraud, inexcusable neglect, misrepresentation
9 or misconduct by an opposing party.

10 (iv) Any other extraordinary circumstances that the
11 court believes are in the interest of justice.

12 Section 2. Sections 8522(b) and 8542(b) of Title 42 are
13 amended by adding paragraphs to read:

14 § 8522. Exceptions to sovereign immunity.

15 * * *

16 (b) Acts which may impose liability.--The following acts by
17 a Commonwealth party may result in the imposition of liability
18 on the Commonwealth and the defense of sovereign immunity shall
19 not be raised to claims for damages caused by:

20 * * *

21 (10) Child sexual abuse.--Acts of child sexual abuse
22 which constitute gross negligence when committed by
23 individuals employed by a public institution, agency or other
24 legal entity for which actions are brought under section
25 5533(b) (relating to infancy, insanity or imprisonment).

26 § 8542. Exceptions to governmental immunity.

27 * * *

28 (b) Acts which may impose liability.--The following acts by
29 a local agency or any of its employees may result in the
30 imposition of liability on a local agency:

1 * * *

2 (9) Child sexual abuse.--Acts of child sexual abuse
3 which constitute gross negligence when committed by
4 individuals employed by a public institution, agency or other
5 legal entity for which actions are brought under section
6 5533(b) (relating to infancy, insanity or imprisonment).

7 * * *

8 Section 3. The addition of 42 Pa.C.S. §§ 8522(b)(10) and
9 8542(b)(9) shall apply to acts of child sexual abuse committed
10 on or after the effective date of this section.

11 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in limitation of time,
3 further providing for unlimited time to bring civil actions,
4 for tolling limitations of civil actions, for unlimited time
5 to bring criminal actions and for limitation of serious
6 criminal actions.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 5531 of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania
10 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a paragraph to read:
11 § 5531. No limitation.

12 The following actions and proceedings may be commenced at any
13 time notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter
14 except section 5521 (relating to limitations on foreign claims):

15 * * *

16 (4) An action for childhood sexual abuse. As used in
17 this paragraph, the following words and phrases shall have
18 the following meanings:

19 "Childhood sexual abuse." Includes the following:

1 (i) Any of the following sexual activities between a
2 minor and an adult, if the individual bringing the civil
3 action engaged in the activity as a result of forcible
4 compulsion or by threat of forcible compulsion which
5 would prevent resistance by a person of reasonable
6 resolution:

7 (A) Sexual intercourse, which includes
8 penetration, however slight, of any body part or
9 object into the sex organ of another.

10 (B) Deviate sexual intercourse, which includes
11 sexual intercourse per os or per anus.

12 (C) Indecent contact, which includes any
13 touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of the
14 person for the purpose of arousing or gratifying
15 sexual desire in either person.

16 (D) An action which constitutes an offense under
17 any of the following provisions of Title 18 (relating
18 to crimes and offenses):

19 Section 3121 (relating to rape).

20 Section 3122.1 (relating to statutory sexual
21 assault).

22 Section 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate
23 sexual intercourse).

24 Section 3124.1 (relating to sexual assault).

25 Section 3124.2 (relating to institutional
26 sexual assault).

27 Section 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent
28 assault).

29 Section 3126 (relating to indecent assault).

30 Section 3127 (relating to indecent exposure).

1 Section 4302 (relating to incest).

2 Section 4304 (relating to endangering welfare
3 of children).

4 Section 6301 (relating to corruption of
5 minors).

6 Section 6312 (relating to sexual abuse of
7 children).

8 "Forcible compulsion." As defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 3101
9 (relating to definitions).

10 Section 2. Section 5533(b) (2) of Title 42 is amended to
11 read:

12 § 5533. Infancy, insanity or imprisonment.

13 * * *

14 (b) Infancy.--

15 * * *

16 [(2) (i) If an individual entitled to bring a civil
17 action arising from childhood sexual abuse is under 18
18 years of age at the time the cause of action accrues, the
19 individual shall have a period of 12 years after
20 attaining 18 years of age in which to commence an action
21 for damages regardless of whether the individual files a
22 criminal complaint regarding the childhood sexual abuse.

23 (ii) For the purposes of this paragraph, the term
24 "childhood sexual abuse" shall include, but not be
25 limited to, the following sexual activities between a
26 minor and an adult, provided that the individual bringing
27 the civil action engaged in such activities as a result
28 of forcible compulsion or by threat of forcible
29 compulsion which would prevent resistance by a person of
30 reasonable resolution:

1 (A) sexual intercourse, which includes
2 penetration, however slight, of any body part or
3 object into the sex organ of another;

4 (B) deviate sexual intercourse, which includes
5 sexual intercourse per os or per anus; and

6 (C) indecent contact, which includes any
7 touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of the
8 person for the purpose of arousing or gratifying
9 sexual desire in either person.

10 (iii) For purposes of this paragraph, "forcible
11 compulsion" shall have the meaning given to it in 18
12 Pa.C.S. § 3101 (relating to definitions).]

13 Section 3. Section 5551 of Title 42 is amended by adding a
14 paragraph to read:

15 § 5551. No limitation applicable.

16 A prosecution for the following offenses may be commenced at
17 any time:

18 * * *

19 (7) An offense under any of the following provisions of
20 Title 18 (relating to crimes and offenses) if the victim is
21 under 18 years of age:

22 Section 3121 (relating to rape).

23 Section 3122.1 (relating to statutory sexual
24 assault).

25 Section 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual
26 intercourse).

27 Section 3124.1 (relating to sexual assault).

28 Section 3124.2 (relating to institutional sexual
29 assault).

30 Section 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent sexual

1 assault).

2 Section 3126 (relating to indecent assault).

3 Section 3127 (relating to indecent exposure).

4 Section 4302 (relating to incest).

5 Section 4304 (relating to endangering welfare of
6 children).

7 Section 6301 (relating to corruption of minors).

8 Section 6312 (relating to sexual abuse of children).

9 Section 4. Section 5552(b.1), (c)(3) and (c.1) of Title 42
10 are amended to read:

11 § 5552. Other offenses.

12 * * *

13 (b.1) Major sexual offenses.--[A] Except as set forth in
14 section 5551(7) (relating to no limitation applicable), a
15 prosecution for any of the following offenses under Title 18
16 must be commenced within 12 years after it is committed:

17 Section 3121 (relating to rape).

18 Section 3122.1 (relating to statutory sexual assault).

19 Section 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual
20 intercourse).

21 Section 3124.1 (relating to sexual assault).

22 Section 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent assault).

23 Section 4302 (relating to incest).

24 [Section 6312 (relating to sexual abuse of children).]

25 (c) Exceptions.--If the period prescribed in subsection (a),
26 (b) or (b.1) has expired, a prosecution may nevertheless be
27 commenced for:

28 * * *

29 [(3) Any sexual offense committed against a minor who is
30 less than 18 years of age any time up to the later of the

1 period of limitation provided by law after the minor has
2 reached 18 years of age or the date the minor reaches 50
3 years of age. As used in this paragraph, the term "sexual
4 offense" means a crime under the following provisions of
5 Title 18 (relating to crimes and offenses):

6 Section 3121 (relating to rape).

7 Section 3122.1 (relating to statutory sexual
8 assault).

9 Section 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual
10 intercourse).

11 Section 3124.1 (relating to sexual assault).

12 Section 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent
13 assault).

14 Section 3126 (relating to indecent assault).

15 Section 3127 (relating to indecent exposure).

16 Section 4302 (relating to incest).

17 Section 4304 (relating to endangering welfare of
18 children).

19 Section 6301 (relating to corruption of minors).

20 Section 6312(b) (relating to sexual abuse of
21 children).

22 Section 6320 (relating to sexual exploitation of
23 children).]

24 * * *

25 (c.1) Genetic identification evidence.--Notwithstanding any
26 provision of law to the contrary, if evidence of [a misdemeanor
27 sexual] an offense [set forth in subsection (c)(3)] under 18
28 Pa.C.S. § 3126 (relating to indecent assault) or 3127 (relating
29 to indecent exposure) or a felony offense is obtained containing
30 human deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) which is subsequently used to

1 identify an otherwise unidentified individual as the perpetrator
2 of the offense, the prosecution of the offense may be commenced
3 within the period of limitations provided for the offense or one
4 year after the identity of the individual is determined,
5 whichever is later.

6 * * *

7 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

CARDOZO LAW

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Marci A. Hamilton
Paul R. Verkuil Chair in Public Law

PHONE: 215-353-8984
FAX: 215-493-1094
E-MAIL: hamilton.marci@gmail.com

Statement of Professor Marci A. Hamilton
Author of *Justice Denied: What America Must Do to Protect Its Children*
www.sol-reform.com

January 23, 2013
Press Conference for Pennsylvania SOL Reform

For over a decade, I have studied and worked to eliminate the statutes of limitations for child sex abuse, and defended window legislation in the courts. I am here today to support this noble cause to create justice for long-silent child sex abuse victims in Pennsylvania. I was a consultant to Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham for the Grand Jury Report on child sex abuse in the Philadelphia Archdiocese.

I am a graduate of Penn State's Graduate School and the University of Pennsylvania Law School and have resided in Bucks County since 1984. My husband, who is a graduate of St. Joseph's University, is co-founder and President of VIP Products, a successful, family-owned chemical company, which has been operating in Philadelphia for 40 years. Our children have been educated in the outstanding Council Rock School District.

I have studied the outcomes of SOL reform in numerous states, and I will testify that it has dramatically increased public knowledge of predator identities and the institutions that have enabled pedophiles. It has not shut down organizations or valuable programs, but it has given thousands of survivors the message that we do not blame them for the abuse they suffered. It has also shifted the cost of their long-term therapy from them and the state to the institutions and individuals who caused the abuse.

SOL reform is empowering to victims and their families, and terrifying to pedophiles and their supporting institutions. It finally levels the playing field so that victims can come forward when they are ready and those creating the conditions for abuse are on notice that they do not have a safe haven in an arbitrary legal technicality.

On this issue, Pennsylvania's legislators need to do what is right and not just what is politically expedient. The lobbyists for the Catholic bishops have paid hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars to defeat legislative reform for child sex abuse victims. They are destroying their own institution, many survivors' lives, and oppressing incest victims with their immoral and unethical position on SOL reform.

I will also testify that window legislation is constitutional in Pennsylvania. There are states where there are cases that would be a barrier to window legislation. Not so in Pennsylvania.

Thanks to the many organizations and survivors who have worked tirelessly for SOL reform, including Justice4PAKids, BishopAccountability.org, Cardozo Advocates for Kids (CAK), Child Protection Project, Child Victim's Voice of Delaware, Foundation to Abolish Child Sex Abuse (FACSA), International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA), Jewish Board of Advocates for Children (JBAC), Justice for Children, National Black

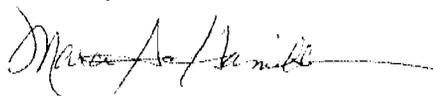
Church Initiative (NCBI), National Crime Victim Bar Association (NCVBA), National District Attorneys Association, Parents for Megan's Law - The Crime Victim's Center, Rabbinical Council of America, Rape Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), Road to Recovery, Safe4Athletes, Stop the Silence: Stop Child Sexual Abuse, Survivors for Justice, Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP), The Leadership Council.

BIO:

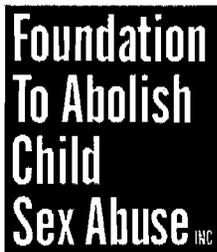
MARCI A. HAMILTON is one of the United States' leading church/state scholars and holds the Paul R. Verkuil Chair in Public Law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, where she specializes in church/state issues and the dynamics of child sex abuse in institutional settings. She is an advocate for child sex abuse victims, collaborates with numerous organizations dedicated to helping survivors and their families, leads efforts for legislative reform -- particularly statute of limitations reform -- and represents survivors of abuse in a wide variety of institutional settings, including churches, schools, and universities. During 2012, she was honored as one of Pennsylvania's Women of the Year, and received the National Crime Victim Bar Association's Frank Carrington Champion of Civil Justice Award.

Professor Hamilton is the author of *JUSTICE DENIED: WHAT AMERICA MUST DO TO PROTECT ITS CHILDREN* (Cambridge University Press 2008, 2012); *GOD VS. THE GAVEL: RELIGION AND THE RULE OF LAW* (Cambridge University Press 2005, 2007); and the co-editor of *FUNDAMENTALISM, POLITICS, AND THE LAW* (Palgrave Macmillan 2011). She is currently a bi-monthly columnist for www.justia.com and was a bi-monthly columnist for www.findlaw.com for ten years. Professor Hamilton was lead counsel for the City of Boerne, Texas, in *Boerne v. Flores*, 521 U.S. 507 (1997), before the United States Supreme Court in its seminal federalism and church/state case holding the Religious Freedom Restoration Act unconstitutional. She has been a visiting professor at Princeton University, New York University School of Law, Emory University School of Law, and the Princeton Theological Seminary. Professor Hamilton clerked for Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of the United States Supreme Court after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania Law School; the Graduate School of Pennsylvania State University; and Vanderbilt University.

Sincerely,



Marci A. Hamilton
Paul R. Verkuil Chair in Public Law
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law



**Statement from John Salveson, President of the Foundation to Abolish Child Sexual Abuse
January 23, 2013 Press Conference**

My name is John Salveson, President of FACSAs. I am a survivor of child sex abuse at the hands of a Roman Catholic priest, and have been working to bring justice to my fellow child sex abuse survivors for 33 years.

I am here today to express my support for the legislation being introduced today by these legislators who are dedicated to the safety of Pennsylvania's children. I applaud them for their commitment and determination.

I am also here to address a charge our opponents have been making for years – a charge I expect to be repeated in the debate about these bills. That charge, simply put, is that the victims of child sexual abuse are motivated solely by their desire to receive large settlements for the damage done to them.

The truth is that the vast majority of victims do share a common motivation – the overwhelming desire to expose predators that have been sheltered by their institutions so that other children will be protected from the kind of trauma we have experienced. It is as simple as that.

Fortunately, we don't have to speculate about whether this legislation will accomplish this goal – since three other states have already enacted these reforms and we know for certain the power they have to protect children. Let me give a very specific example.

Yesterday's Los Angeles Times contained a front page article which described, in detail, irrefutable evidence that Archbishop Roger Mahoney and his assistant Monsignor Thomas Curry plotted for years to conceal child molestation by priests from law enforcement. Among other strategies, they gave predatory priests assignments outside of the state so they could avoid criminal investigation. None of these facts are disputed by Mahoney.

These discoveries are just the tip of the iceberg in Los Angeles. There are still thousands of pages of files on 75 other predatory priests yet to be reviewed. If there is one thing we know for certain, it is that the examination of these and other files will expose both previously unknown predators as well as the officials who protected them. And that will make children in Los Angeles safe.

How is it that these files came to be released? They were released as part of a civil action taken on behalf of child sex abuse victims covered by the one year window in California suspending the statute of limitations on civil actions for past victims. No window, no trial. No trial, no documents. No documents, no exposure of predators. It really is that simple.

If you have a good memory, you may remember that the California window legislation was enacted in 2003. So why are we reading about these files 10 years later? Because the Archdiocese of Los Angeles has spent millions and millions of dollars fighting their release – long after they agreed to financial settlements with victims. Now that they have been released we can see why they have been fighting so hard.

The legislation being introduced today is not about enriching victims and their lawyers. It is about exposing predators and their protectors - wherever they may be found. We know, for a certainty, that these laws are the single most powerful tool available to us to protect children. It is time we started using them.

CONTACT:

John Salveson, President
The Foundation to Abolish Child Sex Abuse
Phone: (215) 870-0680
Salveson@abolishsexabuse.org
www.abolishsexabuse.org

A Silent Epidemic – childhood sexual abuse

When reading through these statistics, please keep in mind what these numbers mean in terms of human suffering and the real children and adults they represent. - FACSA

Silent Epidemic – The Stats:

- Nearly 80% of victims will initially deny the abuse or be hesitant about disclosing
- Approximately 75% of known cases are disclosed accidentally by the abused child
 - 73% of child victims do not tell anyone about abuse for at least a year
 - 45% of victims do not tell anyone for at least 5 years
 - Many never disclose at all

Close to Home

- 30-40% are abused by a family member
- In 90% of reported cases, the abuser is someone the child knows and trusts
- Almost 50% are abused by someone outside the family whom they know and trust
 - Only 10% are abused by strangers

More Than You Think

- 1 in 4 girls are sexually abused before the age of 18
- 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused before the age of 18
- 1 in 5 children are solicited sexually while on the internet
- 42 million survivors of child sexual abuse exist in America today

Healthcare Impact – The Stats:

The consequences of CSA frequently follow victims into adulthood. Most people have no idea that the effects are so pervasive in adult life, or that it dramatically increases the risk for serious health conditions and diseases, some of which can be passed to offspring (as epigenetic studies have found).

***Traumatic events can change gene expression, thus altering immune function and resulting in possible physiologic alterations, leading to serious health conditions, diseases and early death.**

***Generally, adult victims of CSA have higher rates of health care utilization and report significantly more health complaints compared to adults without a history of CSA. These health problems represent a burden both to the survivor and the healthcare system. Adults with a history of CSA are 30% more likely than their non-abused peers to have a serious medical condition.**

- Addiction to: Substance Abuse (drugs-alcohol-tobacco)/ Eating / Sex / Relationships / Work / Shopping / Self Mutilation / others
- Adolescent pregnancy / Unintended pregnancy
- Autoimmune Disorders/Diseases such as Fibromyalgia / Lupus / Multiple Sclerosis
- Cancer
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Decreased brain size in severe and extended cases of abuse
- Depression
- Early initiation of sexual activity and smoking
- Gynecological problems/miscarriages/low birth weight babies/fetal death
- Health-related quality of life
- Heart Disease / Ischemic Heart Disease (IHD)

Foundation to Abolish Child Sex Abuse - FACSA

- Hypertension
- Learning disabilities such as ADD/ADHD
- Liver disease
- Mental Health problems
- Obesity/Eating Disorders such as Anorexia and Bulimia
- PTSD
- Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) / multiple sexual partners
- Stroke
- Suicide

Additional Increased Risk of:

- Criminality – As either victim or perpetrator
- Decreased lifetime earning potential
- Inability to hold a job – “job-hopping”
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Relationship and social problems – familial, intimate, friendship and professional

Economic Impact:

Although difficult to quantify, the consequences of CSA (mental health problems, relationship and social problems, substance abuse issues, becoming a parent as a teen, compromised physical health and other factors manifested in the aftermath of CSA) many times result in the loss of earning potential over a lifetime, burdening the healthcare system, employers and tax payers. Society ends up picking up the tab for the outcome of crimes committed against children.

CSA costs the nation annually: \$35,000,000,000.00

CSA costs Pennsylvania

Annually :	\$ 139,150,622.18
Long Term :	\$ 1,433,251,408.45

**Foundation to Abolish Child Sex Abuse
FACSA**

www.AbolishSexAbuse.org

[www.facebook/AbolishCSA](https://www.facebook.com/AbolishCSA)

EPIDEMIC	DEFINITION	OUTCOME	PREVENTION
Leukemia	Cancer of the white blood cells	1 in 29,000 children	NONE
Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD)	The most common genetic disorder in children worldwide. Children with DMD cannot produce dystrophin, a protein necessary for muscle function.	1 in 3,600 male infants	NONE
Type 1 Diabetes	Type 1 Diabetes (previously known as juvenile diabetes). In Type 1 diabetes, the body does not produce insulin.	1 in 400 children	NONE
Autism	A disorder or neural development characterized by impaired social interaction and communication, and by restricted and repetitive behavior.	1 in 110 children	NONE
Childhood Sexual Abuse	Sexual activities involving a child and an 'abusive condition' such as coercion or an age gap between abuser and offender large enough to indicate a lack of consensuality.	1 in 4 girls & 1 in 6 boys (some stats report 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 5 boys)	Education/Awareness/ Change antiquated laws

Pa. statute of limitations for abuse victims should be altered

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By Patriot-News Editorial Board

Among the difficult realities of child sexual abuse is that victims might need years, even decades, to come to terms with their abuse.

It isn't until they deal with the emotional trauma of what happened to them that they then are ready to confront their abuser.

Unfortunately, our justice system is not set up to deal with this all-too-common occurrence.

Instead, there is a statute of limitations in place that only gives victims a certain amount of time to file a complaint, either civil or criminal.

If they come forward after that time period has expired, they are barred from going forward. We have seen this most prominently with accusations against priests in the Catholic Church.

This system not only does not allow victims to seek the justice they deserve, but it also protects the sexual abuser, whose identity otherwise might never become public.

This can mean allowing them to continue abusing others.

In the case of the allegations against former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, attorneys have heard from one man who can't press charges against Sandusky because he missed the statute of limitations cutoff by a mere nine months.

Elected officials have highlighted the need to protect victims of abuse in the aftermath of the Sandusky allegations. Gov. Tom Corbett even created the Task Force on Child Protection to look at Pennsylvania's child abuse laws and propose potential changes. It is expected to give its recommendations to the governor in November.

But one important way to protect victims doesn't need to wait for the task force. We can be sure we give them the ability to have their day in court — even if it is years after the abuse ended — by changing the current statute of limitations.

Pennsylvania should create a "window" or period of time when victims who are beyond the statute of limitations can come forward and file a suit against an abuser.

Other states, such as California, Delaware and most recently, Hawaii, have enacted such laws. When California opened a one-year window, 300 cases were opened.

In the commonwealth, advocates are looking for a one-time, two-year window.

Along with that, these advocates also want to move the age limit for filing civil cases from age 30, where it currently stands, to age 50, so that it matches the age limit in criminal cases.

So far, there has been great opposition to making the changes. The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference opposes the move as does the insurance industry.

Some lawmakers want to wait until the governor's task force makes its recommendations before moving forward with legislation. We strongly disagree. An earlier commission spurred by priest abuses already looked at these issues and recommended similar changes.

This bill could move in tandem with the work the task force is doing. Because a report from the group will not be handed to the governor until near year's end, no changes are likely to happen until sometime in 2013. Victims of abuse should not wait that long for justice and lawmakers must act sooner on changes.

This is an issue that impacts many families. Studies show that one in four girls and one in six boys have been sexually abused in our country. More than 90 percent are molested by someone they know. And these statistics are likely low because there is so much under-reporting of child sex crimes.

People who go through this abuse as children are a unique group of victims who deserve special consideration. The state should open the window for abuse victims as soon as possible — there is no reason to wait any longer.