

HB 2494 Statute of limitations for sexually violent offenses when victim is a child.

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Good Afternoon. Please forgive me, but you will probably learn more than you want to about our family, all the way to the fact that we have 6 children and ALL of them were involved in incest before we even realized. NOT a fact I am proud of by ANY means, but this is just a small piece of the things we deal with EVERY day.

I'm going to slow down a little because this is VERY emotional for me because I KNOW deep in my heart how much this bill would benefit not only our ENTIRE family, but an infinite number of families in Kansas and hopefully someday nationwide.

There are so many THOUSANDS of children just in our own state that get into doing ALL KIND of bad behaviors, from physically hurting others, to molestation and incest, to GOD only knows all the variety of behaviors these children exhibit. So they get into trouble – whether it be they are ordered into therapy; to a PRIF (that stands for Psychiatry Residential Treatment Facility, but we unfortunately have a daughter on the verge of going into long term mental hospital a PRTF that we had to learn this system way more than we could EVER have imagined). These medicines will probably be needed for the rest of all of our lives just to cope mostly because of the slap in the face we keep getting. All this “bad behavior” is merely their screaming cries for help.

At least a few of them get the opportunity to be saved from their own “personal HELLS” (as quoted by my oldest son. He is 10 years old now and constantly fights off his urges PRAYING to avoid jail. And my daughter feels that is still ok to molest others as in her mind “women do not get into trouble”, as one of her predators, her birth mother's boyfriend (her other predator) is in prison for molesting 30 other kids and is awaiting trial for ours, yet birth mother, who we recently found out (due to the suppression of the trauma) was VERY much involved in molestation (as well as abuse and neglect) is currently free to molest any and all children she comes in contact with.

How is this possible?

We have dealt with and will probably FOREVER deal with therapists, counselors, social workers etc. and I just realized when speaking to some of them about this bill how many THOUSANDS of children REQUIRE this bill to be retroactive. From kids in therapy to others in long term hospitals all the way to kids jail and prisons – there are so very many children in our state that's child molesters (the people that have caused so much havoc, trauma, pain and heartache in them) are still out walking the streets molesting and creating new molesters DAILY (and I am being EXTREMELY conservative at daily as we ALL know it is WAY MORE!!!) because once those children could finally admit how those people hurt them – EVERYONE tells them “Too late, statute has expired.”

My husband has been dying, crying, and trying to advocate since he saved his children from the abuse, but unfortunately Kansas being a “woman's state” it took me stepping in

with my minor legal experience to FORCE ANYONE to listen. And here we are once again speaking our story praying someone is listening with their hearts who may be able to help our children.

It is so unfortunate, at least in our own family, that the turnover of employee's who leave their positions (partly because of the fact of the 5 year limitation as I was specifically told by an ex-SRS investigator as he wanted to help these children, yet continued to get slapped in the face with "to late, sorry") to detectives not wanting to do their jobs, to even the district attorney who we BEGGED to add birthmother to the case with her boyfriend who is scheduled for release from prison in JUNE. (WOW – drug dealers get LIFE in prison, yet a person that touched over 30 kids only gets three or four years. What's wrong with that picture?) Anyway – then he will be tried for ours.. Begging them with information galore we were told to "let detectives do their job and if she needs to be added, she will." We had DETAILED information to them, as well as "safe talks" from our children 3 ½ to 4 years after the trauma along with the substantiation from SRS of same and beyond, yet with all the job turnover our children fell thru the cracks and we were told 6 months ago that it was "to late due to the statute of limitations".

We need to find a network of all counties so they can work together as the woman admitted to EVERYTHING she had done to her own children in a county just thirty miles away directly to a JUDGE! But supposedly there was no record of that court proceeding. Hello – this was a protecting from abuse order that grandma had filed when she picked them up for a weekend visit, then her and their father got NUMEROUS calls from the birth mothers family NOT to let the children return to her. They all made SRS case reports. She lives in Osage county so the information got transferred to Shawnee County where the offense had occurred. OSAGE County as that was where the children resided as they waited on dad to return home on the bus – he dropped EVERYTHING! The dilemma was that these kids only got protecting from their predator that admitted in open court TO A JUDGE all the details – for one year! And after that year – we ALL live inconstant fear.

One of the scariest parts for our family is the fact that the birth mother's mother pushes her to apply to the courts for visitation of the children about every 18 months. At the last court proceedings we were denied protecting order because she told the judge she would not see them outside visitation. YES – she was approved visitation thru "safe visit" (was sage visit who told us that more women have to be supervised than the fathers) (But that's another can of worms). All she has to do is pay dues to "safe visit" and we would be FORCED to take them to see her.

After all the work with NUMEROUS therapists to help our children work thru the molestation, abuse, and neglect that their birth mother put them thru, could you only imagine the re-dramatization they would have to deal with if they had to see her face again? This would bring back EVERY horrific memory they had to deal with and ALL of us would have to start the entire process OVER and OVER again.

Our children are aware that she is still free to hurt any and all other children and that they could see her at ANY TIME as we are running errands and it scares the SHIT out of them. They constantly (6 years later) fear that she will "come get them".

Therapists have told us that this fact in their head is a large part of what is not allowing them to completely heal and know in their hearts that it's finally over.

But unfortunately, even though her horrible action have been substantiated over and over, we have been advised by our attorney that we cannot relinquish her rights to see them and at ANY TIME she could apply to the courts for custody of "her children".

For this reason (as well as for ALL the individuals and families living in our same situation constantly scared to DEATH of what the future could bring) I am PLEADING with you to not only increase the statute of limitations for this horrific crime to age twenty eight, but this NEEDS to be retroactive so that families EVERYWHERE will FINALLY be able to put it all behind us so we are not forced to live EVERY day in FEAR and we could finally move forward in the healing process.

Please, please for all the children involved we must allow this bill to cover ALL the children that have reported this (as well as those who have not yet) and have gotten "to late" for you to get even a half way normal life.

Thank you so much for hearing my pleas and I pray someday that we can work together to help the children.