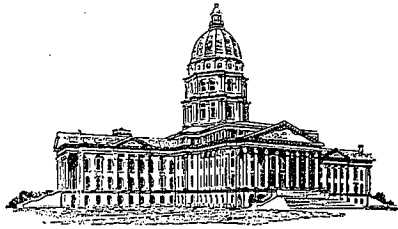


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CORRECTIONS & JUVENILE JUSTICE
JUDICIARY

BLAINE FINCH
59TH DISTRICT

TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE CORRECTIONS AND JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

IN SUPPORT OF HB 2252

February 20, 2013

Chairman Rubin, Distinguished Ranking Member Finney and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Today I rise in favor of HB 2252 and urge you to pass this bill out of committee and recommend its favorable passage to the House.

HB 2252 does two things. First, it eliminates the statute of limitations for the crime of rape. Statutes of limitation specify the time frame in which cases may be brought against defendants. Currently, the statute of limitation for rape is 10 years. This bill would allow the charge to be brought at any time a prosecutor concludes there is sufficient evidence to bring the case to court.

Second, HB 2252 increases the statutes of limitation for sexually violent offenses against minor children. Currently the statute of limitations is 5 years beyond the 18th birthday of the minor child. This bill increases that time to 10 years beyond the minor's 18th birthday, or in other words until the age of 28.

The two provisions of HB 2252 would make it clear that the policy of the state of Kansas is to recognize that rape constitutes a violation of the victim that never ends. Consequently, the time when the crime may be prosecuted, and justice sought for the victim, will never end.

Sexually violent offenses against minors also steal innocence and instill fear in those children who survive these crimes. They are often coerced to remain silent about the abuse they suffer and it can take years before they are able to open up about what happened to them. By extending the statute of limitations for these crimes we acknowledge that pressure to remain silent and provide adequate time for the victim to achieve the safety of adulthood and the freedom to work with authorities to bring their abuser to justice.

In closing, I encourage you to adopt HB 2252 and make it clear that those who would steal the dignity and innocence of others will receive no reprieve from justice due to the passage of time.