

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 134:
CIVIL ACTIONS – CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE – DEFINITION AND STATUTE OF
LIMITATIONS
****SUPPORT****

**TO: Hon. Chairman William C. Smith, Hon. Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, Senate
Judicial Proceedings Committee**

FROM: Judy Lorenz

DATE: 02/02/2021

My name is Judy Lorenz and I am here in favor of SB134

I am here to say ENOUGH!

I have been here too many times testifying before this committee on behalf of victims of child sex abuse and have seen too many bills stuffed into drawers, not making it ‘across the street’, or passed by the house overwhelmingly only to die in the Senate.

SOL legislation - getting sneakily transformed into a law regarding statutes of repose rather than statutes of limitations.

Extra deliberation requested in 2019...knowing the tie-breaking senator would be deployed to Afghanistan the very next day and would not be present for the crucial vote. ENOUGH!

Scores of survivors have given heart-wrenching testimony explaining the ramifications affecting them as adults after being sexually abused as children.

I have listened to testimony from experts in psychology, medical and social work fields who methodically explain why children wait so long to report the type of physical, emotional and spiritual trauma they endure only to be thrown to the side by institutional protectionists.
ENOUGH!

As a family support leader, I have heard the horrors of family members dealing with their loved one’s addictions, the staggering number of divorces, mental illnesses, inability to pay bills because of PTSD. And the most profound stories are those of suicide attempts and suicides that were unfortunately successful. ENOUGH!

My husband is a survivor. I won’t go through his story again but clearly since we have been putting ourselves through this for 16 years it might make you understand that we are compelled to act on behalf of the survivors not as fortunate as us. This experience spanning 13 years has been grueling. This year Covid-19 has made the lives of survivors even worse due to isolation, job loss and depression. How terrible is it when Covid-19 is actually a good thing to them in this particular case, only because it means the survivors may be able to testify virtually tempering the

agony of an in person face-to-face testimony? None of us want to go through our stories over and over and over. But we do because we want justice for survivors. Have you all finally had ENOUGH?

What is it going to take to make Maryland stand shoulder to shoulder with New York, New Jersey, Delaware and other states who have already passed this type of legislation?

I am grateful to Senator Hettleman for sponsoring this bill. Please pass SB134, The Hidden Predators Act. It's the right thing to do. ***For these reasons, I urge a favorable committee report and passage of Senate Bill 134 without amendment.***