

Public Hearing on Child Sexual Abuse Bill and NT State Statute of Limitations

Friday, April 29, 10 AM

State Office Building, 250 Broadway in Lower Manhattan, 19th Floor,
Hearing Room #1923

State Assembly Codes Committee, Chairman Joseph Lentol, and
Assemblywoman Margaret Markey /

Assemblywoman Markey's Child Victims Act of New York (A5488) would extend by five years the current NY State civil and criminal statute of limitations on child sexual abuse crimes and add a one-year civil "window" to revive cases of those who have been denied justice by the current inadequate and arbitrary statute

The experts testifying at the hearing will speak about the impact of child sexual abuse crimes on victims and their families as well as the economic cost to government and society.

They will describe the range of support and services that are provided by public agencies and non-profit organizations, often throughout the lifetime of victims. Among those who will appear or present written testimony are:

- Dr. Ted Miller of Public Services Research Institute (PIRE), co-author, National Institute for Justice report and other studies on economic cost of crime victimization;
- Henry Miller, past president, NYS Bar Association and author of recent Bar Journal article on statute of limitations laws;
- Former Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham and an official from the office of current District Attorney Seth Williams;
- John Jay College psychologist Cynthia Culkins Mercado;
- Professor Marci Hamilton, Cardozo Law School of Yeshiva University, author and expert on statute of limitations laws in America;
- A representative of Queens County District Attorney Richard Brown;
- And leaders from Safe Horizon, Downstate Coalition of Crime Victims, Mt. Sinai Adolescent Health Center, NYC Alliance Against Sexual Abuse, among others.

Assemblywoman Markey said: "Childhood sexual abuse has a horrendous personal impact on victims and their families. We hope to better understand how all of society is affected by these crimes by hearing from experts about the services and support that are provided by government agencies and non-profit organizations."

The content of this hearing will be used by us to educate legislators on the issues during LOBBY DAY in Albany either May 17 or 24.

If you can come to Albany to be a "grass roots" lobbyist on either of those dates, please let us know.

We also will be conducting an email campaign directed toward key legislators.

More about that next week.

Bob Kristan

NY Coalition to Protect Children

212-989-1285

