

Testimony of Joyce Wood  
In Support of SB 1033 AN ACT CONCERNING THE LIMITATION OF TIME TO BRING A  
CIVIL ACTION FOR DAMAGES CAUSED BY SEXUAL ABUSE, SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION OR SEXUAL ASSAULT SUFFERED BY A PERSON PRIOR TO  
ATTAINING THE AGE OF MAJORITY

Judiciary Committee  
April 4, 2011

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

When a child is assaulted, incestuously or otherwise, often the threat of punishment is what keeps a child from disclosing. Unfortunately, a child is not often believed if they do disclose. If the offender is a family member, the action is often swept under the rug as if it will go away in silence.

If a person is assaulted at any age, perhaps badly hurt physically - most definitely hurt emotionally - life changes immediately, against our will, never to return to 'normal' as we once knew it. Some days trying to put one foot in front of the other is almost impossible.

How long is too long to recover? How long is too long to ask for damages?

*Whose call is it to say your courage has to come before you are a certain age?*

Unless you have walked in these shoes where your feet don't really fit, you don't know, you can't imagine, and you can't judge what time is the right time for justice.

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