

April 4, 2003

TO: Rep. Eugene L. O'Flaherty  
Co-Chair of Judiciary Committee  
Boston, MA

From: Linda MacDonald & Jeanne Sarson  
Persons against ritual abuse-torture &  
other non-political tortures: child/spousal torture  
Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada

Re: **Support of House Bill No. 1895**

We are writing in support of House Bill No.1895, which would eliminate all time limits on criminal prosecutions for rape and other sexualized crimes.

1. In Canada a statute of limitations on such crimes does not exist thus a precedent for Bill No.1895 exists by your northern neighbour.

2. Also as Relationship Educators with 10 years of experience in helping victims of sexualized violence we have learned that many victims are not able to deal with the devastating effects of being sexually violated as a child until well into their 30's or beyond. From our experience a victim's growth and development often needs to become established and stabilized in adulthood before they feel safe and strong enough to be able to examine their childhood experiences of sexualized violence and take legal action against their perpetrator(s), and/or be able to withstand the stressors of the legal system, and/or survive situations of re-victimization, for example, bystanders who get angry at them for exposing truths the bystanders do not want to hear, having to expose "the secret" to their families and deal with family responses, and work not to be triggered into flashbacks or become over-whelmed in ways that compromise their abilities to function.

It is for the above two reasons that we support House Bill No.1895.

With respect,



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& Jeanne Sarson RN, BScN, MEd  
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