

Submitter: Angela Carhart
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3582

Hello, my name is Angela Carhart, and I am writing in support of HB 3582.

Sexual assault violates the one place you should always be safe: your own body. The effects stay with the body, while often the mind isn't ready to process the trauma right away. Fast forward five, ten, twenty years later and now suddenly you're ready...but the legal system tells you your violation effectively does not matter because the statute of limitations has run out.

I come from an Evangelical Christian background, and can attest to the fact that there were (and remain) sexual predators of all stripes within the faith communities, many of whom held some place of spiritual leadership over the victims. Those victims, whether adult or child, often have needed years, even decades, to get to a place where they have experienced enough healing, time, and space that they're even able to consider pressing charges. And what happens then? They're usually out of luck because of the statute of limitations.

There is no sound reason for continuing to punish survivors of felony sexual assault simply because they aren't ready to tell their story within an artificial time limit. Felony sexual assault should be prosecutable on the timetable of the victim.