



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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LD1427 An Act Extending the Statute of Limitations on Criminal Actions Involving Aggravated Sex Trafficking.

*Testimony of Rep. Rachel Henderson - Rumford
April 14th, 2025*

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. I am Rachel Henderson, and I have the distinct honor of representing the people of District-78 in the Maine House. My district is comprised of the beautiful towns of Bethel, Byron, Hanover, Milton TWP, Roxbury, and my home town of Rumford.

I stand before you today to introduce my bill LD1427 *An Act Extending the Statute of Limitations on Criminal Actions Involving Aggravated Sex Trafficking*.

This bill extends the time limit for prosecuting Class-A or Class-B felonies involving aggravated sex trafficking from 6 years to 20 years. This adjustment strengthens the current law.

Recognizing that many survivors may need years to heal before they can report their experiences. This bill allows more time for victims to come forward and seek justice. The time between a sexual assault and its disclosure can vary widely, with many survivors choosing to report their experiences years or even decades later, often in adulthood. Studies show that survivors of child sexual abuse typically take an average of 23.9 years to disclose, with men generally disclosing later than women. Other research indicates that victims may take around 17 years on average to reveal their abuse. This underscores the need to extend the statute of limitations, as many victims require time to process their trauma before they feel ready to come forward. *

Adults: While some adult survivors disclose shortly after the assault, many delay reporting for weeks, months, or even years. **

District 78 Bethel, Byron, Hanover, Rumford, Roxbury and Milton Township

Understanding, the studies I've cited do directly reference *Sexual Assault* or *Sexual Abuse*, and this bill addresses *Aggravated Sex Trafficking*. I firmly believe that when discussing *Aggravated Sex Trafficking*, *Sexual Assault* and *Gross Sexual Assault* are inherently included in the conversation!

By providing a longer window for prosecution, the bill aims to hold offenders accountable and deter future crimes, ultimately contributing to a safer community.

This extension applies only to crimes committed on or after the bill takes effect, or to cases that have not yet expired under the current 6 years time frame.

Thank you for your consideration.

**National Library of Medicine - [https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4429257/#:~:text=None of the victims reported,9.01, SD=6.45](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4429257/#:~:text=None%20of%20the%20victims%20reported,9.01,SD=6.45)).*

**Queensland Government | Child Practice Safety Manual [https://cspm.csyw.qld.gov.au/practice-kits/child-sexual-abuse/working-with-children/seeing-and-understanding/understanding-indicators-of-child-sexual-abuse-and#:~:text=Attention,even be the same age](https://cspm.csyw.qld.gov.au/practice-kits/child-sexual-abuse/working-with-children/seeing-and-understanding/understanding-indicators-of-child-sexual-abuse-and#:~:text=Attention,even%20be%20the%20same%20age).*

**National Library of Medicine - [https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27436857/#:~:text=Abstract,; sexual assault; support seeking](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27436857/#:~:text=Abstract,;sexual%20assault;support%20seeking).*

**Science Direct - [https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740919312745#:~:text=Yet, on average it takes,facilitate early disclosure of CSA](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740919312745#:~:text=Yet, on average it takes,facilitate%20early%20disclosure%20of%20CSA).*

*** <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4429257/>*