



Michigan Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence

Statement Regarding HB 4306 and HB 4307

The Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCEDSV) supports HB 4306 and HB 4307. We applaud legislators for taking a stand against abuse like that perpetrated by Dr. Robert E. Anderson at the University of Michigan. MCEDSV asks that lawmakers consider HB 4306 and HB 4307 as critical starting points in modernizing Michigan's statute of limitations (SOL).

Dr. Anderson's conduct illustrates difficult truths about sexual abuse:

- Perpetrators often leverage their position of power to harm victims.
- For many reasons, many young survivors are unable to disclose their experiences until decades later, with some studies suggesting the average age of disclosure is 52.

Michigan's SOL closes courts to the vast majority of child victims decades before they are likely to be able to make a claim. In response to the crimes of Larry Nassar, Michigan opened a narrow look-back period for his victims to file suit. This revival window is the narrowest in the country. Each day, MCEDSV and its member programs field questions from survivors who have heard news about SOL bills. This news has given them hope, but they are dismayed to learn the law still does not allow them to file a claim.

Going forward, lawmakers should honor all survivors by passing:

- Longer revival period for all survivors harmed by Michigan's harsh SOL.
- A longer SOL from the time of discovery.
- For child victims, a higher age for claim.
- Where there is a criminal conviction, SOL should be lifted altogether.

MCEDSV is a nonprofit membership organization made up of over 70 agencies that serve survivors of domestic and sexual violence in every Michigan county. Our members provide comprehensive services including shelter and advocacy as well as leading prevention efforts in their communities.

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