

Advocates for Child Victims Act of NY to Combat Childhood Sexual Abuse Come to Albany on May 13 to Urge Reform of Archaic NYS Codes

Groups serving women and girls will present letter of support for Child Victims Act; National speedskating champion talks about abuse in amateur, Olympic sports; Noted victims' rights group reveals results of its opinion polling in NYS Senate districts

Media Advisory – Tuesday, May 13, 12:30 p.m.

Advocates and supporters of the Child Victims Act (A1771A/S6367) will join with **Assemblywoman Margaret Markey** at a press conference in Albany to report about support for the expanded Child Victims Act. The bill, which would permit victims of childhood sexual abuse to get justice and expose perpetrators who have been hidden, is sponsored in the Senate by **Senator Brad Hoylman**. The program is being held in conjunction with a Child Victims Act Advocacy Day in Albany. The event is:

Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 12:30 p.m.
LCA Press Room 130, First Floor,
NYS State Legislative Office Building
Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY

Speakers include leaders of **the Downstate Crime Victims Coalition** and the **Ms. Foundation for Women**. They recently sponsored a state-wide webinar to educate organizations and agencies about child sexual assault and the importance of changing the statute of limitations for these offences and are presenting a letter of support for the Child Victims Act from New York state organizations that serve women and girls.

Former **national champion speedskater Bridie Farrell**, who has roots in Saratoga Springs, NY, will be present to speak about her first person experiences as a young competitor and abuse in amateur and Olympic sports, plus her current work with the SafeSports initiative.

Also speaking will be **Jeff Dion, Deputy Director of the National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC)**, who will reveal results of public opinion polling in selected NY State Senate Districts where they measured public attitudes about the state's archaic statute of limitations codes for child sex abuse offenses and other issues relating to the Child Victims Act.

Other speakers at the press conference include: Cardozo Law School **Professor Marci Hamilton**, author and expert on the changes underway in many other states to update archaic statute of limitations codes; **Peter Brooks of the Horace Mann Action Coalition**; and two representatives of the new **Catholics of Conscience Coalition**, Francis Piderit of Voice of the Faithful-NY, and Steve Powers, who leads the Upstate NY Chapter of Call to Action.

The legislation, A1771, has been adopted by the Assembly four times since 2006, but has not yet advanced in the State Senate. It would completely eliminate the criminal and civil statute of limitations for child sex abuse crimes in New York State (which now expires only 5 years after a victim turns 18) and also completely suspend the civil statute of limitations for one year to provide justice for older victims and unmask abusers and those who have hidden them.