



SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 6 TO GIVE SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK JUSTICE

What is the Public Employee Sexual Violence Act?

H.B. 6 re-opens a window for **public employees who suffered sexual violence by their employer** to file a suit against that employer. This legislation allows victims 1 year to file a suit in cases up to 25 years, even if the applicable statute of limitations has expired (if they can establish they were dissuaded or intimidated from bringing the suit previously).

Sexual Violence is Pervasive

As the #MeToo movement has highlighted the painful and pervasive sexual violence **rooted in American society**, many survivors have decided to come forward and share their stories. As more and more survivors come forward to seek justice, they may quickly encounter a hurdle in their path: an expired statute of limitations.

30,000

harassment charges were filed with the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission in 2016

Nearly **1/4** of those charges were alleged sexual assaults

sexual harassment charges were brought by women **83.4%**

70% workers who experience sexual harassment and say they have never reported it

By the Numbers

1993 → 1999

The **average worker** spends approximately **55 hours** participating in work-related activities

- : American employees experienced **36,500 rapes or sexual assaults while working or on duty**

Rape is the most underreported crime

63% of sexual assault crimes are not reported to police

The Problem

Survivors have many reasons for not reporting these crimes, ranging from fear of the justice system to the stigma that is too often associated with survivors of sexual abuse. For whatever reason a survivor chooses not to come forward, **it can take many years before they are ready, if ever, to seek justice.** In these cases, survivors who are eventually prepared to file suit may find that **the window of time to file has closed**, and they no longer have a legal avenue to seek redress.

**IT'S TIME TO ACT,
DELAWARE!**

Representative Longhurst, along with **Senator Lockman** and **Representative Lambert**, is sponsoring **H.B. 6, the Public Employee Sexual Violence Act** to address the problem of expired statutes of limitations. This bill, if passed, will allow Delaware state public employees (ranging from public school teachers to municipality officials) a year to file claims against an offense who otherwise would be time-barred, provided they can show they were previously deterred from doing so earlier.