



Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Bob Fletcher, Sheriff

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March 3, 2021

The Honorable Athena Hollins
Minnesota State Representative
House District 66B
539 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Reference: House File 1121
Sex Offense Statute of Limitations Eliminated

Representative Hollins:

I am pleased to write in support of House File 1121 in the Committee of Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy. This bill would eliminate the statute of limitations for certain sex offenses. With the changes in language, this bill accomplishes several positive reforms for members in the community who are survivors of sexual violence.

This carefully worded bill will enhance peace officers in our mission of serving the public, investigating crimes, and helping to provide closure and justice following an act of sexual violence. In addition, this bill extends the opportunity for investigation and prosecution of acts of sexual violence against minors by eliminating current the statute of limitations. This is important since current state law limits when acts of sexual violence can be investigated and prosecuted in certain cases, such as if the victim was 18 years of age or less at the time of the offense and did not report the crime within the statutorily prescribed timeframe.

In closing, I believe this bill will help to empower survivors of sexual violence, who were minors at the time of the offense. By offering survivors a chance to gain confidence by having their voices heard, House File 1121 increases the opportunities for justice to be achieved and will inspire hope.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Bob Fletcher
Ramsey County Sheriff