



From the Desk of
Senator Thatcher

Oregon District Attorneys Association, Inc.

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HB 2317A

SUPPORT FOR A 20 YEAR STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR RAPE

The Oregon District Attorneys Association supports a 20 year statute of limitations for the four first-degree sexual assault crimes and encourages the Oregon Senate to change HB 2317A by any procedural manner available to reflect a 20 year statute of limitations rather than the 12 year statute of limitations currently in the bill. The District Attorneys Association makes this request for the following reasons.

- These four crimes are very serious and should not be prohibited from prosecution just because twelve years has passed.
- In sexual assault cases there is often delayed reporting, sometimes for many years, because of the emotional trauma suffered by the victim. When the victim is ready and able to talk, the criminal justice system should be ready and able to respond if proof beyond a reasonable doubt is available.
- Offenders who commit one or more of these horrible crimes should not "get away with it" just because time has passed.
- Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is the standard for conviction whether the case is current or many years old. Prosecutors use this standard every day in deciding whether to prosecute or not. They can apply it to old first-degree sexual assault cases just as they do for old murder cases.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Hermann
President, Oregon District Attorneys Association