

Submitter: Teri Cummings
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB974

Dear Honorable House Committee on Judiciary Committee Representative Jason Kropf, and fellow Judiciary Committee members,
I am writing to ask you to please vote to support an amendment to SB974 to increase the statute of limitations time frame from commission of the crime to prosecution from six years to 12 years. Victims of the crime of sexual abuse by fraudulent consent deserve to have parity with victims of other sexual abuse crimes.
The amendment would involve adding the crime of sexual abuse by fraudulent consent to the list of other sexual abuse/assault crimes listed in Section 2 (2) of SB974 which have a 12 year statute of limitation:
"A prosecution for any of the following felonies may be commenced within 12 years after the commission of the crime or, if the victim at the time of the crime was under 18 years of age, anytime before the victim attains 30 years of age."

This matters a lot to me as a mother who trusted her children's care to Dr. Farley only to realize they were victimized, and as a retired family birth nurse who knows how much patients trust their doctors and as a former West Linn City Councilor who was appalled to hear that Dr. Farley's license to practice medicine was revoked for what he did but his victims were denied justice.

I hope you agree that it would not be reasonable to expect the general public to know what the medical standards for examinations and treatments are. The trust patients naturally place in their caregivers, gives unethical medical licensees like Dr. Farley a unique opportunity to abuse patients that trust their doctors.
Unlike victims of other sexual abuse crimes, victims of fraudulent consent might not ever realize that what happened to them was against the law.
I hope you agree that it would only be fair to give victims of sexual abuse by fraudulent consent the same measure of justice that victims of other felonious crimes of sexual abuse and assault have with a 12 year statute of limitation instead of only six years. The shorter statute of limitations for sexual abuse by fraudulent consent seems to give the message that that particular crime is not as important when in fact it can affect a person's ability to trust and feel safe for the rest of their life.

It has been encouraging to see unanimous support for SB974. Making this small but critically important change will make SB974 even better by finally giving victims the justice they deserve.

Thank you for dedicating your time to serve the people of Oregon

Teri Cummings
West Linn, Oregon