

HB-16-1072 "Concerning the Elimination of the Statute of Limitations for a Sexual Assault" ...Talking Points from former Representative Debbie Stafford M.A., CAC III, Full Status Domestic Violence Treatment Provider (26 years experience treating offenders of Domestic Violence and other crimes)

I am in support of HB16-1072. I have worked with offenders and hundreds of sexual abuse victims over the years. A large number of the offenders that I treat were victims of a traumatic crime such as sexual assault against themselves in their early years. Very few have correlated the relationship to their own abuse and trauma and their rage and anger that is often perpetrated on others.

- 1. Traumatic memories are often suppressed as a survival skill.**
- 2. Arrested development can cause a trauma victim's emotions to stay at the age they were at the time of the trauma...the body grows...the emotions stay "arrested".**
- 3. Many victims of trauma suppress the memories until about the age of 25 to 35 for a female and age 35 to 45 for a male.**
- 4. The body has tissue and sensory memory...ie, smells, touch, sight, sounds that can trigger a buried trauma memory as the victim gets older.**
- 5. Unresolved childhood trauma may cause unhealthy behaviors that are passed on to the next generation.**
- 6. Many parents with untreated trauma and abuse may be triggered when they have their own children who become the age they were at the time of their own trauma and abuse. It is more likely with a same sex child when they mirror to that parent their own vulnerability as a child.**
- 7. There is help. There is healing.**
- 8. Confronting a perpetrator and holding them accountable is empowering to victims of trauma and abuse...especially sexual abuse.**
- 9. Removing the Statute of Limitations for Sexual Assault will bring help, healing and justice for many victims of sex crimes.**

Please vote yes. Thank you for hearing my concerns.

