



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Monica R. Martinez

# **Senator Monica R. Martinez and Her Colleagues in the State Senate Pass the Child Victims Act**

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(Albany, NY); On January 28, 2019, Senator Monica R. Martinez and her colleagues in the State Senate voted to pass the Child Victims Act which eliminates the statute of limitations in regard to sexual assault against a child.

It is estimated that across the state of New York alone, there are 40,000 children who are sexually abused annually. As it stands, New York is one of the few states that have yet to eliminate the statute of limitations for child sex abuse.

It is well documented that many individuals, children in particular, are unable to cope with the trauma as a direct result of the abuse they have experienced making it difficult and unlikely that they will come forward before the statute of limitations expires. Each and every individual who survives abuse is entitled to justice, regardless of the timeline in which they decide to come forward.

This bill expands the statute of limitations for criminal child sexual abuse charges. The bill also creates a 1-year revival period for individuals whose statute of limitations have already expired.

"It is our responsibility as leaders that we afford these critical protections to one of the most vulnerable groups in our society, our children. As a former educator, I have seen first-hand the negative impact sexual abuse can have on a child's character, behavior and on their education. Often times, children are confused, scared, and apprehensive to come forward and speak about their abuse; no child should ever feel this way. I am proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with my colleagues to fight and defend for our children." said Senator Monica R. Martinez

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