



**PRESS ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 16th, 2021**

LOUISIANA PASSES GROUNDBREAKING NEW LAW GIVING SURVIVORS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE UNPRECEDENTED ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Leading National Experts on Justice for Child Sexual Abuse Victims Applaud Passage of Elimination of Statutes of Limitation and 3-Year Lookback Window for Survivors to Sue

Baton Rouge, LA – Kathryn Robb, Executive Director of CHILD USA Advocacy, and Professor Marci Hamilton, Founder and CEO of CHILD USA, commend Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards on signing H.B. 492 this past Monday, June 14th, 2021. This bill will dramatically expand access to justice for survivors of child sexual abuse. The new laws will take effect on August 1st, 2021. Louisiana is now the eighth state with a child sex abuse reform law to go into effect in 2021.

H.B. 492 has an immense impact on victims' ability to access justice in the state of Louisiana. It eliminates the civil statutes of limitations for all child sexual abuse claims and creates a 3-year revival window for previously expired child sexual abuse claims against perpetrators and the institutions that endangered children.

Prior to the passage of H.B. 492, Louisiana's statute of limitation barred civil claims for child sex abuse after a victim reached age 28, or ten years after a victim discovered their injury.

"Bravo to Representative Jason Hughes and the leaders in the Louisiana State Legislature who saw through the false arguments of the opposition and chose to do the right thing - for children and for justice. Child sexual abuse is an epidemic, a ubiquitous social ill that affects 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 13 boys. Louisiana has answered by saying no person or organization should ever be able to hide behind an archaic house-keeping rule. The light of truth will now be able to shine, exposing hidden secrets and hidden predators. The children of Louisiana are safer today than they were yesterday," said **Kathryn Robb, Executive Director of CHILD USA Advocacy and survivor of CSA.**

CHILD USA's CEO and national expert on statute of limitations, Professor Marci Hamilton, commented, "This is a historic day in Louisiana for its children. This window will protect kids by identifying hidden predators. Louisiana is the state where the country first learned about systematic abuse of children by a priest - Gauthier - in the 1980s."

We are also releasing in conjunction with the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP) a toolkit that will serve as a guide to help child sexual abuse survivors in Louisiana navigate the new laws created by H.B. 492 if they are considering legal action. It explains what the law does, contains helpful information for survivors looking to seek justice, and has trustworthy resources for survivors to use every step of the way. You can click [here](#) to access the toolkit for Louisiana.

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AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT

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About CHILD USAdvocacy

CHILD USAdvocacy is a 501(c)(4) advocacy organization dedicated to ending child abuse and neglect by advocating for better laws for child protection. Drawing on the combined expertise of the nation's leading child advocates, specifically our sister organization and national think tank, CHILD USA. CHILD USAdvocacy is committed to protecting children's civil liberties and keeping children safe from abuse and neglect. Visit www.childusadvocacy.org for more information.

About CHILD USA

CHILD USA is the leading national nonprofit think tank working to end child abuse and neglect in the United States. CHILD USA engages in high-level legal, social science, and medical research and analysis to derive the best public policies to end child abuse and neglect in America. CHILD USA produces evidence-based solutions and information needed by policymakers, organizations, media, and society as a whole to increase child protection and the common good. Visit www.childusa.org for more information.