



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 11, 2023

**CHILD USA and CHILD USAAdvocacy Heads to Attend Bill Signing
New MD Measure Helps Abuse Victims Sue**

Today, Maryland has joined the national movement to reform statutes of limitations for child sexual abuse claims. In so doing, Maryland joins 24 other states that have revived expired civil SOLs for the victims from the past and eliminates the civil SOL for all other victims going forward. These lawsuits will publicly expose numerous wrongdoers for past actions and in turn protect innocent children in the future.

CHILD USA, a global interdisciplinary think tank leading the SOL reform movement, will be in Annapolis as Maryland Governor Wes Moore signs the Maryland Child Victims Act of 2023 (House Bill 1). The legislation eliminated the statute of limitations for child sexual abuse to file civil lawsuits in the future and establishes a 'permanent window' which means that any survivor who was sexually assaulted as a child in Maryland can bring a lawsuit regardless of when the abuse occurred.

"I first testified for SOL reform in Maryland in 2003. It's taken 20 years of hard work by so many. I am honored to be here today," **said Marci Hamilton, CEO and Founder of CHILD USA.** "We'll keep fighting until every state has taken this simple step toward prevention, healing, and justice. It's an honor for us to lend our expertise and energy to help vulnerable kids and wounded survivors," continued Hamilton.

"Hundreds of child molesters and other bad actors who are completely 'under the radar' will be publicly exposed as abuse victims are allowed to enter the courthouse and formally name their abusers," **said Kathryn Robb, Executive Director of CHILD USAAdvocacy.** "Today, the children of Maryland are safer, thanks to Delegate C. T. Wilson, Senator Will Smith, and many brave survivors."

Over the past seven years, CHILD USA and CHILD USAAdvocacy have spearheaded efforts to reform statutes of limitations for child sexual abuse claims in well over thirty jurisdictions and in Congress. For over two decades, Hamilton has worked to reform statutes of limitations on child sexual abuse. She has testified in person in numerous state capitals and advised local lawmakers.

Hamilton and Robb also thanked the many survivors and local and national advocates who formed a bright constellation of persistent and fearless champions for justice. Their light shines on this great day for child safety and justice.

The bill was sponsored by Delegate C. T. Wilson and Senator William C. Smith, Jr.



###

Contact:

Available for Comment: Marci Hamilton, Founder and CEO of CHILD USA (215)539-1906

Professor Marci Hamilton is a First Amendment constitutional scholar at the University of Pennsylvania who has led the national movement to reform statutes of limitations to reflect the science of delayed disclosure of childhood sexual abuse and who founded CHILD USA, a national nonprofit think tank devoted to ending child abuse and neglect.

Available for Comment: Kathryn Robb, ED, CHILD USA Advocacy (781)856-7207

Kathryn Robb, Esq. is the Executive Director of CHILD USA Advocacy, a national legislative legal expert, and an outspoken survivor of child sexual abuse.

About CHILD USA

CHILD USA is the leading nonprofit think tank working to end child abuse and neglect in the United States. CHILD USA engages in high-level legal and social science 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.

About CHILD USA Advocacy

CHILD USA Advocacy 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 USA Advocacy is committed to protecting children's civil liberties and keeping children safe from abuse and neglect. Visit www.childusadvocacy.org for more information.