

HELP US STOP A GRAVE INJUSTICE

ASK YOUR ASSEMBLYMEMBER TO VOTE “NO” ON SB 131

SENATE BILL 131, WHICH IS ON THE BRINK OF PASSAGE IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE, ALTERS THE RULES FOR FILING SEXUAL ABUSE LAWSUITS IN CALIFORNIA IN A MANNER WHICH IS PURPOSELY UNFAIR TO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, PARISHES AND SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES.

1. SB131 lets lawyers sue private schools, the Catholic Church, the YMCA and other non-profit service organizations for claims where the statute of limitations may have expired 30, 40 or even 50 years ago. But the vast majority of victims are left out because public schools and agencies cannot be sued for such claims.
2. SB131 even protects the abuser from being sued in many cases.
3. SB 131 creates two classes of victims and two classes of justice
4. SB 131 would be the third time that past statute of limitations will have been changed to allow lawsuits against the Church. In 2003 victims of abuse whose claims had otherwise expired were able to sue private, but not public, institutions.
5. SB 131 is a step backward. In 2008 the legislature accepted the principle that victims of abuse in public institutions should receive the same justice that victims of abuse in religious schools or non-profits should receive. SB131 rejects that principle.

The Catholic Church for many years erred grievously in its handling of the sexual abuse of minors. The Church stands willing to support legislation that treats all employers equally in their responsibilities toward past victims of abuse. But we cannot stand by while the state imposes crushing new financial burdens that imperil our inner city schools, neediest parishes and social services for the poor while exempting public employers from the same level of responsibility.

Please add your voice to those opposing Senate Bill 131.

**Go to www.cacatholic.org and
Click “Take Action” to write to your Assembly Member**