

Contact: Gloria Allred
(323) 653-6530
E-mail: gallred@amglaw.com

Today I'm very happy to be here in Colorado to witness Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper's signing of HB 16-1260 into law.

I represent more than 30 accusers of Bill Cosby including Denver resident Berth Ferrier. Many of my clients who allege that they were drugged and raped are prevented from having their cases ever considered for prosecution by the district attorney in Colorado because of the statute of limitations, the arbitrary time period set by law. In other words, it is too late for a criminal prosecution even if the district attorney concludes that there is sufficient evidence to prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt.

As lawyers and as legislators we should ask who benefits from a relatively short statute of limitations for rape and sexual assault and who is hurt by it. The answer is simple. The victim is hurt and the rapist is helped. She must live with the knowledge that she is being denied justice, and he is happy that he is free to rape again.

The community is forced to live with a rapist in its midst because the rapist will not have to suffer any legal consequences for his rape. It is time to more evenly balance the scales of justice. We can do this by simply lengthening the statute of limitations or eliminating it.

Representative Rhonda Fields understood the importance of changing the law to protect the rights of rape victims when she was contacted by my client, Beth Ferrier, who was seeking a change, and representative Fields stepped forward to lead the legislative effort to win that change.

I commend her tireless and successful efforts to win passage HB 16-1260, the bill signed into law today which will extend the statute of limitations in Colorado to 20 years for criminal prosecution of rape. I also appreciate representative Fields invitation to me to testify before the Colorado legislature in support of this bill. I accepted her invitation and testified.

Nevada has already passed a similar bill into law and now Colorado has stepped up to provide further rights to rape victims in this state.

Recently I testified in California on a similar bill, and that one would eliminate the statute of limitations for rape and sexual assault in California.

We look forward to other states following Colorado's lead to further empower survivors of rape and allow many of them their day in court, which they would otherwise be denied.

Gloria Allred
Representing Beth Ferrier
Attorney at Law
June 10, 2016