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Statement of Attorney Gloria Allred at the Signing of AB 145

I am honored to be here today for the signing of AB 145 by Governor Brian Sandoval which extends the statute of limitations for certain civil actions for damages for injuries incurred by a child as a result of sexual abuse or pornography.

This bill is important because by extending the statute of limitations for civil actions on behalf of victims, it provides access to the civil justice system to those who would otherwise be denied it.

This means that instead of having the courthouse door slammed in their face because it is too late to file a case, the door to justice will remain open for more victims to seek compensation from those who are legally responsible for the harm inflicted on them when they were children.

In short, it will help to empower victims and will assist victims to become survivors. It will also teach the wrongdoers that they must bear the cost of the wrong and be accountable for what they have forced the victims to suffer.

I would also like to emphasize that the passage of AB 145 into law does not necessarily mean that there will be more civil lawsuits. Opening the door to justice may mean instead that because adult child sexual abuse victims are afforded more rights, they will be able to have the ability to seek confidential settlements without filing a lawsuit, and this settlement with the wrongdoers will assist the victims in paying for their therapy, medical bills and other damages which they have suffered.

In short, the victims will know that they now have the power in the civil justice system to help right the wrong and be active in the pursuit of justice.

A neutral person who is a mediator or a judge can decide what that measure of justice should be, but whatever it is it will be more than either the victim or wrongdoer has ever been afforded in the past.

As a lawyer for many victims of child sexual abuse, I have witnessed the empowerment that such justice can bring to victims and their families and how seeking justice can transform their lives.

Tears from pain have become tears of joy as the child who still lives within the adult stands up for himself or herself and as a result wins a measure of justice and a positive outcome that they have been seeking for many years.

I want to thank Assembly member Lisa Krasner and Assembly member Bustamante Adams for sponsoring this important bill.

The passage of this bill provides more rights and support for all of the brave children (now adults) who have been victimized and it will help them win the justice and the healing that they will otherwise be denied.

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