



Restorative Justice International
Post Office Box 467
Carson City, Nevada U.S. 89702
Via email: restorativejusticeinternational@charter.net
www.restorativejusticeinternational.com

June 7, 2018

Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 942849

RE: AB 3120 (as amended April 19, 2018)
SUPPORT

This letter is to indicate RJI's support for your legislation, AB 3120, amended April 19, eliminating the civil statute of limitations for victims of childhood sexual abuse among other provisions.

Restorative Justice International (RJI) is a national and global association advocating for victims-driven restorative justice. We are comprised of over 5800 members and affiliates who support restorative justice as a means of reforming our criminal justice system. RJI stresses the need for our justice system to be based on victims-driven restorative justice which puts the needs of crime victims first by seeking to hold offenders accountable for their actions while providing avenues for healing of crime victims, and communities also injured by crime. Through restorative justice processes offenders are transformed and victims healed, on some level, and communities are safer.

RJI has been advocating for victims of institutional sexual abuse since our founding in 2008. Previously, the founder of RJI advocated for restorative justice in response to the growing global problem of clergy abuse, in particular, beginning in 2001 in the United States. Our advocacy efforts on behalf of victims of abuse have included working in coalition with other justice experts and victims around the world who support restorative justice in cases of sexual abuse. RJI's work includes supporting the increasing body of evidence based research showing the efficacy of restorative justice in cases of sexual abuse of children, and adults and other violent crime. Restorative justice holds offenders directly accountable as much as possible which can include the use of victim offender dialogue, when possible, which has proven important for both the victim of abuse as well as the offender. RJI is also deeply troubled by those institutions who enable abuse of children, and adults, and seek to cover up the abuse without immediately reporting such crimes to law enforcement.

RJI therefore is in support of AB 3120. RJI agrees that statute of limitations should be eliminated in all cases of sexual assault of children or adults. Crime victims should have no deadline to come forward and

report the abuses they suffered. No arbitrary deadline should be placed on victims of abuse to report. Victims of abuse should be encouraged to come forward and report their abuse and not discouraged or penalized for doing so. RJI is in agreement with your legislation that covering up any type of sexual abuse of children and adults is a grave offense and enables the abuse to continue. Restorative justice processes often include financial restitution and this should apply in cases of institutional abuse, as reflected in this legislation, with our recommendation that the offender, if possible, be involved in paying that restitution directly to the victim.

In addition, we recommend that restorative justice be considered as an option to all victims of sexual abuse which on this point would provide for direct victim offender dialogue if 1) the crime victim chooses to participate and, 2) the offender takes responsibility for his actions. In our work nationally and globally crime victims in all types of cases, violent and nonviolent, are choosing restorative justice. We strongly support a crime victim's right to restorative justice, including victim offender dialogue, which we believe should be in statute in California and in every state in the United States.

Thank you for authoring this legislation. If we can be of assistance in any other way please feel free to contact us

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Rea

Lisa M. Rea
President

cc: National Center for Victims of Crime;
RJI Global Advisory Council