

**PRESS STATEMENT:**

**FOUNDATION TO ABOLISH CHILD SEX ABUSE SUPPORTS ASSEMBLY BILL**

**2596: CHILD VICTIMS ACT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** John Salveson  
215.870.0680

PHILADELPHIA (APRIL 16, 2009) --- John F. Salveson, Founder and President of the Foundation to Abolish Child Sex Abuse, Inc. (FACSA) announced today the Foundation's enthusiastic and unequivocal support of Assembly Bill 2596, sponsored by Assemblywoman Marge Markey. The bill, known as the Child Victims Act, would lengthen the statute of limitations for filing civil claims against sexual predators and those who protect and shield those predators. The bill would also create a one-year window during which prior claims could be brought without regard to statute of limitations.

"This bill, and those like it that have passed in other states, provides a powerful and long overdue tool to help protect children from sexual predators" said Salveson. "It will expose predators that have been able to hide behind archaic statute of limitations – as well as the private institutions that have hidden them in plain sight".

A similar law passed in California led to over 1,000 civil suits being filed against sexual predators. Because those law suits were not immediately barred by the statute of limitations, the legal process was allowed to proceed. As a direct result of these cases, over 300 previously unknown sexual predators were identified in California alone. Evidence resulting from these cases has also led to a grand jury investigation of Cardinal Mahoney of the Diocese of Los Angeles. That investigation is in the process of determining if the Cardinal committed crimes when he allegedly covered up the sexual abuse of children by the priest of his diocese.

Also under consideration by the New York Assembly is a law sponsored by Vito Lopez. This law would omit the one-year window and extends the statute of limitations by a shorter time.

"The Lopez bill has the full support of several organizations whose members have systematically covered up child sex abuse for decades in New York and across the country – such as the Catholic Conference. That fact alone exposes the Lopez bill for what it is – a cynical attempt to continue to provide cover and protection to those who have put children at risk for decades" said Salveson.

"We applaud Assemblywoman Markey for her tireless efforts on behalf of child victims of sexual abuse and encourage all New Yorkers to contact their representatives to encourage their support of the bill" added Salveson.

**About FACSA**

The Foundation to Abolish Child Sex Abuse was founded in August 2006 by John F. Salveson, a Philadelphia area businessman and childhood sex abuse survivor. The Foundation is currently working to change state laws in order to:

- Protect children from sexual abuse
- Hold those who sexually abuse children accountable
- Hold accountable institutions which condone and enable the sexual abuse of children
- Help child victims of sex abuse find justice

**Details on the Foundation can be found on its web site at [www.abolishsexabuse.org](http://www.abolishsexabuse.org).**