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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2011-12

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Labor, Public Safety, and Urban Affairs (SC-LPSUA)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Mike Barman (LRB) (July/2012)

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Labor, Public Safety, and Urban Affairs

Senate Bill 473

Relating to: statute of limitations for first-degree sexual assault, attempted homicide, and attempted first-degree sexual assault.

By Senators Cowles and Lassa; cosponsored by Representatives Steineke, Petryk, Jacque, Severson, Nygren, Wynn, Litjens, Bernard Schaber, Rivard, T. Larson, Tranel, Marklein, A. Ott, Spanbauer, Ziegelbauer, Stroebel, Bernier, Kerkman, Endsley and Bies.

February 14, 2012 Referred to Committee on Labor, Public Safety, and Urban Affairs.

February 28, 2012 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (5) Senators Wanggaard, Grothman, Lazich, Wirch and King.
Absent: (0) None.
Excused: (0) None.

Appearances For

- Jim Steineke — Representative, 5th Assembly District

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- Rob Cowles — Senator

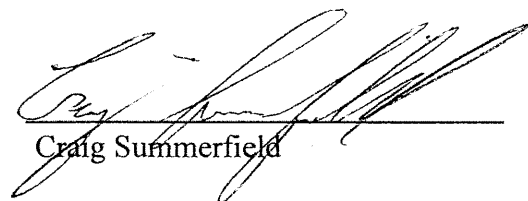
Registrations Against

- None.

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

March 15, 2012 Failed to pass pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1.



Craig Summerfield

Committee Clerk



WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

Public Hearing Slip

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

DATE: 2/28/12
 BILL NO.: SB 473
 OR
 SUBJECT: _____

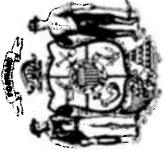
NAME: SEN. ROB CAWLES

STREET ADDRESS OR ROUTE NUMBER _____
 CITY AND ZIP CODE _____
 REPRESENTING _____

- Speaking in Favor
- Speaking Against
- Registering in Favor but not speaking
- Registering Against but not speaking
- Speaking for information only,
Neither for nor against

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Senate Sergeant at Arms
 State Capitol, B35 South
 P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882



WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

Public Hearing Slip

(PLEASE PRINT PLAINLY)

DATE: 2/28/12
 BILL NO.: SB 473
 OR
 SUBJECT: _____

NAME: Rep. Feineke

STREET ADDRESS OR ROUTE NUMBER _____
 CITY AND ZIP CODE 5711
 REPRESENTING DISTRICT

- Speaking in Favor
- Speaking Against
- Registering in Favor but not speaking
- Registering against but not speaking
- Speaking for information only,
Neither for nor against

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Senate Sergeant-at-Arms
 State Capitol, B35 South
 P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882





JIM STEINEKE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 5th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Date?

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on **SB 473**, otherwise known as the Justice for Survivors Act.

This bill seeks to eliminate the statute of limitations on certain crimes. Under current law, perpetrators of some violent crimes can escape punishment if they are able to remain unidentified for a period of six years from the commission of the crime. These crimes include first degree attempted homicide, second degree attempted homicide, first degree sexual assault of an adult and attempted first degree sexual assault of an adult or child. Current exceptions to the statute of limitations are for first or second degree intentional homicide and first degree sexual assault of a minor.

The statute of limitations has its origins in ancient Roman law. The basic premise behind them is to prevent prosecution in older cases where physical evidence had deteriorated, witness memories faded, and generally the passage of time has had a negative effect on the integrity of the evidence.

Times have changed. Advances in evidence collection and preservation have rendered the statute of limitations outdated. DNA doesn't have a faulty memory, fingerprints can be kept in a computer database forever and be available worldwide, and other types of evidence can be preserved indefinitely. Who would have thought 30 years ago that we'd be able to test for DNA and match it to a perpetrator? Who would have thought years ago that we would be able to have a computer search through millions of fingerprints in minutes and provide a match? Who can imagine the advances we will see in the coming years?

We routinely free the wrongly convicted based upon new forensic evidence. Why would we not utilize the same forensic evidence to obtain some modicum of justice for survivors of violent crimes regardless of the date on the calendar?

After these heinous crimes victims are left with the emotional and physical scars for a lifetime, and our system of justice allows these assailants peace of mind if they elude the police for a mere 6 years. I believe any rational citizen would see it like I do. If the victims have to live with the scars of the crime for a lifetime, then their attackers should never be free from the fear of prosecution. Justice for these monstrous crimes should know no time limits.

I'm asking you today to support survivors of these violent crimes by supporting SB 473.