

MEDIA ALERT

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MISSOURI SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE TO HEAR “TREY’S LAW” AND CIVIL STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS REFORM BILL *Advocates call the hearing a “historic day” for the survivor community*

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (March 24, 2025) -- This Wednesday at 8 a.m., the Missouri Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence committee will hear [SB 589](#) and [SB 590](#), “Trey’s Law,” in the Senate Lounge - 3rd floor. A link to listen to the live audio stream of the hearing is available to the public [here](#). [Sen. Brad Hudson](#), R-District 33, filed these bills, which seek to eliminate the civil statute of limitations (“SOL”) and use of nondisclosure agreements (“NDAs”) for child sexual abuse and trafficking victims in Missouri.

Elizabeth Carlock Phillips is expected to testify at the hearing. Her brother, Trey Carlock, is the namesake of “[Trey’s Law](#).” Trey died by suicide in 2019 after settling his civil case against Kanakuk Kamps, which involved a restrictive NDA. Phillips [testified in favor](#) of a House version of “Trey’s Law” on February 26, which passed out of the House Judiciary Committee. She has also testified in past sessions in favor of bills like SB 589, which eliminate the civil SOL for cases involving child sexual abuse and trafficking.

“I’m so grateful that legislators are inviting survivors’ voices to be heard at the Capitol and especially appreciate Senator Hudson for championing these bills,” said Phillips. “It is a historic day that these bills are being heard together. We must pass Trey’s Law and civil statute of limitations reform in Missouri for child sexual abuse and trafficking victims as an urgent matter of public safety—as testimony will show.”

Phillips will be joined by many other survivors of abuse at Kanakuk, IHOP Kansas City and Mike Bickle, Boy Scouts of America, and other institutions. Kathryn Robb, Esq., the National Director of the Children’s Justice Campaign at ENOUGH ABUSE, is also expected to testify as a subject matter expert. Robb is a survivor who has advocated for NDA and civil SOL reform in over 35 states. Robb and Phillips both [testified at a hearing](#) on “Trey’s Law” in Texas last week, where the bill was passed unanimously out of committee and now awaits a House floor vote.

How does SOL reform (SB 589) serve survivors of child sexual abuse (“CSA”)?

Currently, Missouri law only allows survivors of CSA to sue their perpetrator up to age 31, or within three years of discovering any injuries related to CSA, and age 26 to file against liable institutions. Advocates for SOL reform in civil CSA cases say this leaves many survivors without legal recourse, as research shows it takes an [average of 20 years](#) for survivors of CSA to first disclose their abuse, with many not disclosing until [their 50’s and 60’s](#), and a large number of survivors [choosing to never disclose](#).

This is the third session that Kanakuk survivors have advocated for civil SOL reform in Missouri and the first session that legislators have filed “Trey’s Law.” Representative Brian Seitz (R), of Taney County is the bill sponsor in the House. His previous bills related to this issue have garnered widely bipartisan support in both chambers, with Sen. Barbara Washington (D) stating last session, “We know that sexual victims, rape victims, oftentimes do not come forward, ever, as children...We would like to provide them with an opportunity to stay stable, to be able to deal with that when they are ready and available to open themselves up to bringing those type of lawsuits.”

How does NDA reform (SB 590) serve survivors of CSA?

NDA's (also known as non-disparagement or confidentiality clauses) can be part of a larger settlement agreement or a standalone contract wherein one or more parties agree that certain information will remain confidential. While NDA's were created to keep proprietary business information confidential, such as trade secrets or sensitive client information, they have since become standard practice in civil settlements related to child sexual abuse and trafficking. As a result, bad actors are protected while survivors are forbidden to share their stories to various extents, depending on the language in a particular settlement agreement or contract.

While 18 states and U.S. Congress (via the "[Speak Out Act](#)") have clarified the law on NDA's for adult survivors of sexual harassment in the workplace, Tennessee is the only state to pass [legislation](#) specific to prohibiting NDA's in civil CSA settlements, rendering them "void and unenforceable."

Wednesday's hearing is the next step toward SB 589 and SB 590 reaching a Senate floor vote, should the committee decide to pass them. After a Senate floor vote, the bills would still need full House approval to pass the General Assembly and reach the Governor's desk to be signed into law.

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