

**call for action.
call for justice.**

for too long, survivors of sexual assault have been *denied access to justice*.

with your help, New Jersey's outdated civil statute of limitations for sexual assault *ends now*.

JOIN THE FIGHT!

1. Find your legislator.

Go to www.njleg.state.nj.us and click on "Districts by Number" in the left column. Find your town and select the corresponding district. Your legislators and their contact information will appear on the screen.

2. Give their offices a call!

Inform staff that you are a constituent of the legislator's district and ask to speak to the legislator. Know the bill numbers – Senate Bill S447 and Assembly Bill A3648.

Legislators are busy people – if they are not available to speak with you, you may be asked to talk to a staff member. They will collect your feedback and present it to the legislator so they know their constituents support this cause.

Some legislators share offices with their Senate or Assembly counterparts. Save yourself time and check if the numbers are the same, to avoid having to call back!

3. Show your support!

Express your support by explaining the key elements of the bill and how it will help survivors of sexual violence in N.J. (*See below for tips to get started!*)

If legislators or staff have technical questions, feel free to reach out to NJCASA so that we may follow up on your behalf.

4. Be respectful!

This is an important cause and you will be speaking with important decision-makers in the state. Don't forget to thank them for their time!

5. Let us know how it went!

There is only so much that can be done in Trenton. We want to know how our grassroots efforts are doing. Share your feedback with NJCASA at info@njcasa.org.

Here's what you can say when you call!

Hi! My name is [NAME] and I am a constituent of [LEGISLATOR'S NAME]. I'm calling regarding [*if you're calling a Senator say, "S477" | If you're calling an Assemblyperson say, "A3648"*] and how it will help survivors of sexual violence in New Jersey. Our state's measly two-year civil statute of limitations is simply not enough for survivors. [MAKE IT YOUR OWN! Pick one of the points on the next page and use it here.] I'd appreciate your attention and dedication to ensuring we address this egregious gap in policy, by urging that this bill be added to committee agendas before the end of this year. Thank you!"

njcoalition
against sexual assault

your phone calls remind New Jersey lawmakers that survivors and those who care for them are listening, watching, and expecting them to act.



here's more information you can share during your calls!

"Although New Jersey has no statute of limitations for survivors of sexual assault who want to pursue the criminal justice system, *we have a limited two-year statute for pursuing cases in civil court*. Compare that to the six year limit on pursuing civil litigation for trespassing, which seems like a huge injustice giving the severity of the crime."

"A 2000 study found that *47 percent of victims do not tell ANYONE for over a year* – yes, this includes reporting the crime to police. Recovering, processing traumatic events, and coming to terms with experiencing sexual violence takes time – time that New Jersey does not currently afford survivors."

"Victims of sexual violence *choose different ways to pursue justice* and we should follow their lead. For some that means the criminal justice system, for others it means reporting within the system that harmed them (a school, workplace, etc.), and for many, that means accessing the civil justice system. Too many survivors have the clock run out on their opportunity to pursue civil action before they even know it's an option. Senate Bill S447 / Assembly Bill A3648 will allow more survivors to pursue justice in a way that feels right for them."

"THIS is the time for trauma-informed policy reform! The legislature has taken critical steps to reforming an unfair system from expanding access to protective orders to increasing training for law enforcement officers and increasing oversight and prevention of sexual violence in our schools. Civil statute reform is the next logical, common-sense step to best serve the 1.8M survivors of sexual violence living in N.J."

Recent national and state-specific allegations of sexual assault make it clear that these problems are systemic and that we have inadequate responses for survivors seeking justice. These reforms are necessary to promote equality and access to justice for survivors.