News From
State Representative Dennis Reboletti

Reboletti Calls for Harsher Penalties on Sexual Predators

Springfield , IL … Legislation imposing tougher penalties on predators who commit sexual crimes against children under the influence of alcohol, sponsored by State Representative Dennis Reboletti (R-Elmhurst), was approved by the Illinois House March 25.

"As a prosecutor I saw numerous cases where the predator used alcohol to impair the victim. Currently alcohol is not an aggravating factor in a criminal sexual assault case, however, this legislation will better protect victims and allow judges to impose a harsher sentence on sexual predators who use alcohol to lure their victim," said Reboletti.

House Bill 5640 allows the court to extend the sentence on an offender who has been convicted of felony criminal sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual assault, predatory criminal sexual assault of a child, criminal sexual abuse or aggravated criminal sexual abuse when the victim is under 18 years of age and under the influence of alcohol at the time of the offense.

The legislation was created in response to an 11-year-old girl from Lake County who was given alcohol and then sexually abused by a family member.

Denise Rotheimer, founder of Mothers on a Mission to Stop Violence, worked diligently with Reboletti to pass the legislation.

"My 11-year-old daughter, Jasmine, was raped while she was rendered incapacitated under the influence of alcohol," said Rotheimer. "Her 22-year-old rapist was able to abuse the situation and virtually skate through the criminal justice system with a 'slap on the wrist' because the state does not recognize alcohol as an aggravating factor in rape cases. Under HB5640, known as Jasmine's Law, sexual predators will face an extend term that doubles their prison sentence when they commit an act of sexual violence while their victims are under the influence of alcohol."

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