On Friday SB 131 passed from the Senate Floor and goes on to the Governor to be signed unless we can convince him to Veto it.

We do not have any idea as to when this may be signed, it could be tomorrow, it could be in 3 weeks.

The bill is being vigorously opposed by the California Association of Private School Organizations (CAPSO). Seventh-day Adventist schools are affiliated with CAPSO. If passed, SB 131 will also affect youth programs such as Pathfinders and summer camps.

SB 131 changes the statute of limitations period for suing private organizations only, in respect to sexual abuse cases, despite the fact that public schools account for the vast majority of both students and abuse complaints.

SB 131 fails both victims and private schools by ignoring the actual perpetrators of sex abuse, and doing nothing to strengthen criminal penalties against abusers or extend the criminal statute of limitations.

Please call Governor Brown and tell him to Veto SB 131.

Governor Jerry Brown Office
916.445.2841

Below is a telephone script you can follow if you need a little help.
Ask to speak to his Chief of Staff or Legislative Director for SB 131.

“My name is ____________________. I am with ((Name of Seventh-day Adventist School in your area)) and am calling to ask the Governor not to sign SB 131.”

Cite any 3 of the bullets below. More than 3 is too long a phone call.

1. SB 131 discriminates against victims of childhood sexual abuse. Only a small minority of victims are covered by SB 131. Public agencies are immune from lawsuit under SB 131. Anyone who was abused in a public school or by government workers of any kind will get no justice if SB 131 is passed as is.

2. Even the proponents agree. In an amicus brief filed with the California Supreme Court in a related legal case, the attorneys and co-sponsors of SB 131 have said excluding public sector victims “makes a mockery of the Legislature’s intent.”

3. By excluding public victims, SB 131 creates separate and unequal systems of justice for victims. You’re covered by SB 131 if you and your family could afford private schools and expensive club sports, but if you went to public school, or played in city rec leagues or had public day care, SB 131 gives you nothing. It only allows suits to go forward against organizations that appear well heeled or well insured—and never against the perpetrator himself.

4. The attorneys and co-sponsors of SB 131 have rejected all attempts at seeking compromise. All attempts at a compromise that would seek justice for ALL victims have been rejected, because it might result in smaller fees for lawyers, but relatively larger payments to victims.

5. SB 131 ONLY harms private and non-profit organizations. The bill lets lawyers sue private schools, the YMCA and other non-profit organizations for claims where the statute of limitations may have expired 30, 40 or even 50 years ago—but not public schools, other government agencies or the actual abuser.

“Please do not sign this bill until ALL victims and ALL schools are treated equally.”

“Thank you for your time.”

Please act NOW. We cannot do this without you!

For More Information please go to:
www.churchstate.org
“Church State Council”