



Your complimentary use period has ended. Thank you for using PDF Complete.

Click Here to upgrade to Unlimited Pages and Expanded Features

2014 Legislative Victories



Coalition leadership at the State House this session resulted in greater protections for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking.

Joshua's Law, A bill creating the crime of domestic violence.



Named for a young boy whose life was taken in the ultimate act of domestic violence, Joshua's Law is one of the most important pieces of domestic violence legislation since the '90s. Distinguishing the crime of domestic violence in statute will allow our justice system, child protection agencies, law enforcement, and advocates to more effectively coordinate community responses to victims and their children and hold abusers accountable. **Special thanks to Joshua's inspirational mother, Becky Ranes, who lent her voice to this initiative and advocated tirelessly at the Legislature.**

SB 253 ensures that a woman who has become pregnant as a result of rape can petition to terminate the parental rights of her rapist without requiring a criminal rape conviction. Rape is the most under-reported violent crime in the U.S., and requiring a criminal conviction in these cases puts rape victims and their children at risk for future victimization by their attacker. **No rape victim should be forced to co-parent with her attacker.**

Terminating the parental rights of rapists

Human Trafficking

SB 317 passed NH House and Senate unanimously! This bill strengthens the state's human trafficking statute through enhanced criminal penalties for sex trafficking of minors. By recognizing that children are unable to consent to sex acts, this bill protects child victims of sex trafficking from prosecution for prostitution and it also allows victims to vacate any related convictions. In addition victims will be able to sue their trafficker. **NH will not be a safe harbor for this insidious crime.**

Sexual Abuse Prevention

SB 348 establishes a commission to study sexual abuse prevention education in elementary and secondary schools. We are pleased that the Coalition will have a seat at the table in these important discussions.

Employment Discrimination

SB 390 prohibits discrimination against employees who are victims of domestic violence and establishes a committee to further look at how state laws, rules, and employment practices can be used to better protect victims.

Protecting Pets

HB 1410 adds animal cruelty to the definition of "abuse" under the domestic violence relief statute, and it allows a judge to order an abuser to stay away from the pet in both temporary and final domestic violence protective orders.