



SEN. FLOYD PROZANSKI

Senate District 4 – Lane & Douglas Counties
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

NEWS RELEASE

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Senate approves measure doubling statute of limitations for first degree sex crimes

SALEM – The Oregon Senate gave final approval Thursday to a measure that doubles the statute of limitations for first degree sex crimes, including rape. House Bill 2317 passed the Senate on a unanimous vote and now goes to the Governor for her signature.

Oregon's current six-year statute of limitations is one of the shortest in the country where there is not DNA evidence. Under current state law, there is no statute of limitations when DNA evidence is present.

"I am pleased that the Senate has joined the House of Representatives in doubling the statute of limitation for first degree sex crimes. This will give the Legislature time to do an extensive review of our statute of limitation laws to ensure they provide the necessary safeguards in our criminal justice system," said Senator Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene), chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Prozanski told members of the Senate Thursday that during the interim he will convene a work group to consider extending the statute of limitations for first degree sex crimes further.

The measure grew out of the advocacy of Brenda Tracy. In June 1998, Tracy, then a 24-year-old single mother living in Keizer, was raped by four men including two former Oregon State University football players. Police conducted an investigation but never pursued charges against the men. After 16 years, Tracy went public with her story in November 2014 through a series of articles by Oregonian sports columnist John Canzano.

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