



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

January 6, 2023

The Honorable Kim Ward
President Pro Tempore
Senate of Pennsylvania

The Honorable Mark Rozzi
Speaker
Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Dear President Pro Tempore Ward and Speaker Rozzi:

I write today to provide a copy of the public proclamation I have issued calling for a special session of the General Assembly to address the statute of limitations for claims involving childhood sexual abuse.

As you know, in November 2019, following the grand jury investigation into child sexual abuse by Catholic clergy, the General Assembly passed a number of measures, including a constitutional amendment that would have retroactively extended a timeline for victims to file civil actions against their abusers. Countless brave victims and passionate advocates worked tirelessly toward this goal.

In February 2021, we were gravely disappointed to learn that the Department of State had failed to advertise the proposed constitutional amendment. That error caused a heartbreaking delay for thousands of survivors. At that time, I apologized profusely and committed to working with the General Assembly to reach a swift legislative resolution.

Fortunately, the General Assembly acted last session to pass House Bill 14 to restart the constitutional amendment process. It is now time for the General Assembly to act expeditiously and complete the constitutionally required second passage with the exact language contained in last session's House Bill 14, Printer's Number 1017 to ensure that the voters have their say in this May's election. So that the Department of State can meet the constitution's publication requirements for this amendment to be on the May ballot, I am asking the General Assembly to pass the joint resolution quickly and no later than Friday, January 27, 2023. This very tight schedule can only be accomplished under the specific circumstances of a single, straightforward amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution such as the one under consideration here.

Given the short timeframe and to ensure the General Assembly is uniquely focused on passing this joint resolution as quickly as possible in advance of the publication deadline, I am calling a special session. So as not to delay action and to allow the General Assembly to get to work immediately, I am not requesting to formally address a joint session of the House and Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Wolf".

TOM WOLF
Governor

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The Honorable Mark Rozzi
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CC: The Honorable Joe Pittman, Republican Leader, Senate of Pennsylvania
The Honorable Bryan Cutler, Republican Leader, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
The Honorable Jay Costa, Democratic Leader, Senate of Pennsylvania
The Honorable Joanna McClinton, Democratic Leader, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Michael Gerdes, Secretary and Parliamentarian, Senate of Pennsylvania
David Brogan, Parliamentarian, Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION OF SPECIAL SESSION AND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

By virtue of the authority vested in me by Article II, Section 4; Article IV, Section 12; and Article III, Section 12, of the Constitution, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby convene the General Assembly in Special and Extraordinary Session, to meet in the Capitol at Harrisburg, on January 9, 2023, at 12 noon, to consider the subject of whether an individual for whom a statutory limitations period has already expired, or whose claim would otherwise be barred or limited by a statutory cap on damages, sovereign immunity or by governmental or official immunity, should have a period of two years, without bar or limitation by such caps or immunities, to commence an action arising from childhood sexual abuse, in such cases as provided by law.

GIVEN under my hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth, at the County of Dauphin, this sixth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three, and of the Commonwealth two hundred and forty-seven.



Tom Wolf

Tom Wolf
Governor

Attest:

Jonathan Marks

Jonathan Marks
Deputy Secretary for Elections and Commissions