

Massachusetts Citizens for Children

Campaign for Children Newsletter

December 2004

Shaken Baby Prevention Legislation Filed

In response to the steady reports of infants seriously injured or killed as a result of shaking, Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) prevention advocates have drafted a bill that would direct the Department of Public Health to collaborate with the Department of Social Services and other state and private agencies to develop and implement a comprehensive, statewide initiative to reduce infant death and disability resulting from Shaken Baby Syndrome. The bill, being sponsored by **State Senator Susan Tucker (D-Andover)** and **State Representative John Scibak (D-South Hadley)**, aims to replicate elements of a pilot program launched over two years ago by the Central Massachusetts SBS Prevention Campaign and coordinated by MCC. The bill would support implementation of in-patient SBS prevention education for new parents; education of other caregivers and professionals; support for families and children affected by SBS, and data collection on the incidence of SBS in the Commonwealth.

Statute of Limitations Reform Legislation Filed

Survivors of childhood sexual abuse and child advocates have joined together with lawmakers to push for repeal of the state's Statute of Limitations in cases of sexual abuse. **State Representative Ron Mariano (D-Quincy)** and **State Senator Scott Brown (R-Wrentham)** are leading the effort to repeal the current 15 year limitation on filing criminal or civil suits against an alleged perpetrator. A survey conducted by Massachusetts attorney Carmen Durso of 38 of his clients who were victims of child sexual abuse documented that the average age of victims when they disclosed was 44 years of age. The average number of years it took these victims to disclose their abuse to authorities was 32 years – over double the current 15 year limitation. Statutes of limitations are one of the main reasons that priests accused of child sexual abuse have not been prosecuted for these crimes. Statute of limitations laws have already been repealed in several states.

Contact your Senator and Representative to encourage them to co-sponsor these bills. Deadline for co-sponsorships has been extended to December 15th at 5 PM. To find the contact information for your Senator and Representative, go to:

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/memmenuh.htm> (House members)

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/memmenus.htm> (Senate Members)

Ask them to contact Senator Tucker or Representative Scibak to be added to the list of co-sponsors. To view a copy of the bill, go to the Massachusetts Citizens for Children website link at: <http://www.masskids.org/bills.html>

Red Sox Victory Print Set – HOT NEW ITEM!

The "Red Sox Victory Print Set" features the actual view of the Massachusetts State House when unfurled banners congratulated the team on its American League Championship Series victory on October 20, 2004 and its winning of the World Championship Series Title in a clean sweep against the St. Louis Cardinals. These prints are copies of the original watercolors painted by renowned Boston artist, Paul D. Shea. The artist painted these views of the State House from the 7th floor office of Massachusetts Citizens for Children (MCC) located at 14 Beacon Street in the historic American Congregational House building.



These 12 x 15 1/4 prints were donated to MCC by Mr. Shea to help support our child abuse prevention programs throughout the state. This print set is the perfect gift for any Red Sox fan and a great souvenir to commemorate the historic breaking of the Sox's 86-year "Curse of the Bambino"! Visit our [MCC Store](#) to purchase.

Prices

Red Sox Victory Print Set \$20 Red Sox Victory Print Set Autographed by Paul D. Shea \$100