



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

February 20, 2012

The Honorable J. B. Van Hollen  
Attorney General  
Wisconsin Department of Justice  
1 South Pinckney St. #615  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Dear Attorney General Van Hollen:

The revelations reported in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* on Friday, February 10, indicating that sealed documents filed in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee bankruptcy case document at least 8,000 instances of child sexual abuse and 100 alleged offenders who have not been previously identified by the archdiocese are nothing short of a public safety crisis. We are writing to urge your office to take immediate action to investigate these allegations of child sexual abuse and to work with other law enforcement agencies to bring those individuals who sexually abused children to justice.

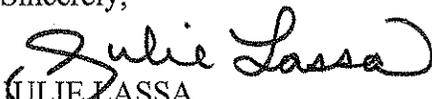
We know that, left unchecked, child sexual predators will reoffend. Research on pedophilia indicates that the average perpetrator will have between 80 to 100 victims over the course of a lifetime. This raises the real likelihood that many of these offenders are still in a position to abuse children. The concealment of these offenses may already have facilitated hundreds of additional crimes against young people. It is vital to immediately determine whether any of these documented crimes are still prosecutable under the statute of limitations, and in any case to identify all known perpetrators so they can be prevented from damaging any more young lives.

In addition, we ask that your investigation into these allegations of child sexual abuse also include anyone who participated in the concealment of these violent sexual crimes against children. There can be no leniency for those, if these allegations are proven to be true, who allowed innocent children to be sexually abused and victimized.

As our state's chief law enforcement officer, it is incumbent upon you to take swift action to respond to this public safety crisis. We know and respect your leadership in protecting children from sexual predators, and hope you will apply equal urgency to uncovering and ending this dire threat to the safety of Wisconsin children.

We thank you in advance for your immediate response.

Sincerely,

  
JULIE LASSA  
State Senator  
24<sup>th</sup> Senate District

  
SANDY PASCH  
State Representative  
22nd Assembly District



ROBERT JAUCH  
State Senator  
25<sup>th</sup> Senate District



LENA TAYLOR  
State Senator  
4<sup>th</sup> Senate District



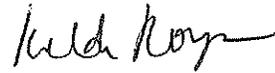
CHRIS TAYLOR  
State Representative  
48<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



JESSICA KING  
State Senator  
18<sup>th</sup> Senate District



ROBERT TURNER  
State Representative  
61<sup>st</sup> Assembly District



KELDA HELEN ROYS  
State Representative  
81<sup>st</sup> Assembly District



TERESE BERCEAU  
State Representative  
76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District