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# State rep. wants to reopen decade old murder case

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Fourteen years after a man was convicted of beating and killing a 21-month-old girl, a state representative is trying to compel the New Hampshire attorney general to reopen the case. WMUR's Stephanie Woods has more.

## Video Transcript

EVIDENCE TO OVERTURN HIS CONVICTION.

STEPHANIE WOODS IS LIVE IN THE STUDIO WITH MORE.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ABRAMSON SAYS HE BELIEVES CHAD EVANS WAS WRONGLY CONVICTED IN 2001 OF BEATING KASSIDY BORTNER TO DEATH. ABRAMSON SPONSORED THE BILL THAT IS URGING THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO REOPEN THE CASE. AT A HEARING TODAY, EVANS' EX-WIFE TESTIFIED THAT SHE WANTS THE CASE AND EVANS' PRISON CELL DOORS SHUT. "I WAS MARRIED TO CHAD EVANS FOR A FEW YEARS. WHILE IN THAT HOME , IT WAS TERRIFYING."

CHAD EVANS WAS CONVICTED OF THE SECOND DEGREE MURDER OF KASSIDY BORTNER IN 2001, HIS THEN GIRLFRIEND'S DAUGHTER. HIS EX-WIFE SAYS THAT FOR HER AND HER SON EVANS' 100 YEAR SENTENCE ISN'T ENOUGH. "CHAD EVANS DOES NOT DESERVE TO BE OUTSIDE OF PRISON. AND HIS SON DESERVES A CHANCE." SHE OPPOSES HOUSE RESOLUTION 10 WHICH WOULD URGE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO REEXAMINE EVANS' CASE. THE BILL SPONSOR, MAX ABRAMSON, SAYS EVANS IS INNOCENT AND NEW PHOTOS AND MEDICAL EVIDENCE PROOVE IT. "MY CONCERN IS THAT PEOPLES' CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS ARE BEING VIOLATED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AND BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE," ABRAMSON SAYS HE EMPATHIZES WITH EVANS BECAUSE HE SAYS HE WAS WRONGLY CONVICTED OF RECKLESS CONDUCT IN 2010. " I THINK CHAD'S CASE IS A LOT WORSE THAN MINE BECAUSE HE WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON AND THERE'S VERY LITTLE EVIDENCE, OTHER THAN THE ACCUSATIONS MADE BY THE BABY-SITTER, THAT HE HAD DONE ANYTHING TO THAT CHILD. AND THERE'S ACTUALLY NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE.

IN FACT, TWO EXPERTS FROM THE STATE AND TWO FROM THE DEFENSE TOOK A LOOK AT KASSIDY'S INJURIES, INCLUDING THE ORIGINAL MEDICAL EXAMINER, AND CONCLUDED THAT KASSIDY HAD IN FACT BEEN BEATEN TO DEATH."

BUT JEFF STRELZIN SAYS THE HE DID REVIEW EVIDENCE IN THE CASE IN 2012.

"WE CONSIDERED ALL THE INFORMATION, WE'VE CONSULTED WITH EXPERTS ABOUT THIS INFORMATION, WE'VE LOOKED THINGS OVER AND SO FAR WE DON'T SEE THE EVIDENCE OF HIS INNOCENCE THAT HE CLAIMS."

THE CHAIR OF THE HOUSE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE SAYS THE COMMITTEE WILL DECIDE WITHIN A WEEK WHETHER THE HOUSE WILL VOTE

LIVE IN THE STUDIO, STEPHANIE WOODS, NEWS 9.