

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Rep. Marsha Looper**

303-866-2946

Contact: Randy Hildreth

303-866-5679

Contact: Owen Loftus

303-866-2988

**COLORADO  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
DENVER  
80203**

## **Rep. Looper Champions Victim Rights**

Rep. Marsha Looper, R-Calhan, this week will introduce legislation to ensure victim's rights are secured. House Bill 1081 extends the length of the statute of limitations for vehicular homicides from three years to five years.

Looper's bill follows a tragic accident that happened in El Paso County in 2003:

"The story of how Johnny Lopez and his family have struggled is heartbreaking," said Looper. "If anyone thinks that three years is long enough, they just need to talk to the Lopez family, police officers, or anyone involved in this tragedy."

Johnny Lopez was killed in a hit-and-run in Fountain, Colorado. Detectives began investigating immediately, and suspect vehicle was identified shortly after. Since then, the case has slowly been developing; however, as of 2008, no arrests have been made

"The case was simply dismissed because it has taken too long" said Looper. What a tragedy! Not only has the Lopez family lost Johnny, but the person who left him to die on the road will never be brought to justice due to a bad law."

HB 1081 will be heard in the House Judiciary Committee on January 29<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m. in room 107. The family of Johnny Lopez will testify, as well as police officers, and others who have been affected by the statute of limitations.

"What a victory it would be for the Lopez family to know that because of their work, no family will ever suffer the way they are," added Looper.

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