

SB 347

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Thank you Chair Prozanski and members of the committee for letting me speak today.

Interestingly, the number of this bill is the old prefix to Bandon telephone numbers, where I grew up and became acquainted with rather a lot of terrible human beings. Don't get me wrong, Bandon's a great town, but when I was growing up it happened to have a lot of bad, sick individuals. The first juvenile to be sentenced to adult prison, for killing his grandmother for her social security check, was on my bus route and a guest in my home. Two kids I went to gym with in junior high ran away from home one day and shot a telephone lineman, initiating a week long manhunt. One friend joined the Marines, became part of the Silent Drill team, and then a PCP laced joint unlocked the rage he had for his abusive father so much that he went out and killed a young woman and her baby.

I can go on.

When I tell you that I've looked the monster in the eye, please believe me. I can understand the fear of monsters; I've lived through it for years. I am friends with survivors of Saddam Hussein's Abu Ghraib and Iran's Evin prisons. Believe me when I tell you that feeding the monster does not make them go away.

I know from experience that the monster does not care about this law except that it gives him an open feeding ground at schools. The hunger of the monster will drive them to our schools, sure that nothing will stop them feeding their rage.

SB 347 is not just a bad law because it infringes on our First Amendment right to freedom of peaceable assembly, it is bad law because it feeds the monsters.