



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

May 6, 2013

Representative Jeff Barker, Chair  
Members of the House on Judiciary Committee

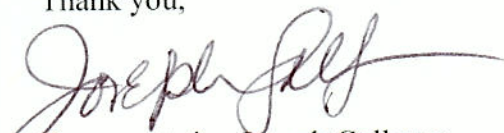
Dear Chair and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am pleased to testify before you today regarding an issue brought to me by a parent group in my district. I was contacted last December by a group of concerned parents in my district. Their concern was with a sex offender therapy class being held at a church on NE Campus Drive in Hillsboro, also in my district. The parent group was specifically concerned with the location of the sex-offender class. The class is held at the church, which is located next to Quatama Elementary School. The church is separated from the school by a small community garden.

While the church has taken steps to protect both program participants and young people in the neighborhood from encountering each other in a negative way, parents nonetheless remain anxious about the possibility. This is more than a "not in my back yard" issue. While the probability of an incident of sexual assault by a church program participant is very low, the potential does exist and feeds the concern of local parents. Through mediation, the church had implied a willingness to move the class to another location, yet the church has not acted on this request. In this situation there is no "good guy" or "bad guy". Several constituents have also contacted me on the value of service that the church provides. We need to be able to recognize both the valuable serves being offered by the church, and the unease of parents who have children attending this school.

The bill before you would give more local authority to monitor the locations where there types of classes or clinics like this can be held. My constituents have not contacted me to say that these classes or clinics should not exist, we all recognize their importance, but they just want to make sure that they are not next door to our children.

Thank you,



Representative Joseph Gallegos

