

Testimony in support of House Bill 2218

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Dear Members of the House Judiciary,

Thank you so much for this bill. It is so important to stay on top of this stuff in our digital age. We rely on websites and online information now more than any time in history, so we need to make sure that the technology available to us is being used for its intended purpose. In this case, it's public safety.

A single mom that does all her background checks and thinks she's doing all the right things before dating a person shouldn't ever have to worry about the website not staying up-to-date.

I recently informed a lady with 2 young daughters that the man she was dating had a criminal history that made her daughters vulnerable to abuse, since the age of her daughters is just the age this particular man is fixated on. She did not believe me, and since he was not on the sex offender website, why should she?

There are so many people I've encountered that said, "If it's so bad, he'd be on it," and that was such a source of frustration for me because I knew of so many instances of predators that weren't on the website that should've been.

I believe this bill is going to help us begin to address the loopholes and close them!

"An informed public is a safer public," is what I hear every time a public notification is released regarding a *predatory sex offender with a high risk to reoffend* moving into a neighborhood. Every parent I know is on such high alert now that we know exactly where they are and what they look like, and I'm sorry if that embarrasses some people on the registry, but our right to protect our kids far outweighs the long lasting effects of certain criminal convictions.

I most certainly believe that people have a right to get over their pasts and have a right to move on after they've paid their debt to society, but some debts can never be repaid.

Convicted sexual predators, or people with a psychiatric diagnosis of "sexual conduct disorder," should just feel lucky they aren't spending the rest of their lives behind bars. If most people had their way, anyone that sexually assaults a child not once, but hundreds of times, or someone that has multiple victims over a number of decades SHOULD NEVER SEE THE OUTSIDE OF A CLOSED CUSTODY FACILITY.

The cost of housing a predatory sex offender is worth it, in my opinion, since it is truly the only way that some people will never create another victim or destroy another life.