

Dear House Committee on Education, thank you for hearing my testimony. I am writing in opposition of this bill. I urge you to stop this bill and not allow it to move forward. This bill exposes our most vulnerable to citizens to people who may lead them into life altering, horrific situations. I recognize that everyone deserves second chances at life, and there are multiple programs that give those people those chances, but to change the law and allow this at our SCHOOLS, working with 5 year old children, is beyond my comprehension. We all have consequences for the actions that we take, and this is one of them- you can't work with children in schools. Find another avenue to make money- there are tons of them. There are now hiring signs on basically every business I go into. And if your desire is to work with children, find a program that supports that, speak at a juvenile hall, do speaking events where you aren't alone with kids, figure some else out. If these people are sincere in their heart, they will find another avenue to get their message out.

My question to you is simple, would you feel safe having one of these people that have been convicted of the crimes that we would now allow to be in our schools, babysit your children? Alone, at your house. Would you allow them to babysit your grandchildren, alone. Despite the good intentions of all things school, teachers, staff, and volunteers are often found alone with kids. There is no way to monitor all of these actions. So why would we allow someone who has a past record to be allowed to be alone with them? There shouldn't even be a HINT of malice, hate, sexual abuse, drug trafficking, drug abuse felony charges, and so on, in someone that is wanting to work in a school system. Why would we even begin to set our children up for even the possibility of a chance that something would happen. We have functioned just fine in the past not allowing this- so what has changed? If you are looking me in the eye and telling me that you would be perfectly fine allowing your child to be alone with one of these adults for any period of time with no supervision, then we have another issue.

I implore you-- PROTECT OUR YOUNG!! STAND UP FOR THE INNOCENT. Your priority should be to them, not to the people who have broken the law. DO WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CHILDREN, OUR FUTURE. YOUR CHILDREN, AND THEIR CHILDREN. Please, do not do this.

With all sincerity, Emily McIntire