

Submitter: Nicole Kelleher
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB821

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing as a concerned mother to oppose the bill that removes the deadline for the State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision to assess sex offender registrants into a risk level. As a parent, my primary concern is the safety of my children and the community, and I believe this bill would significantly compromise that safety.

1. Delaying Risk Assessments Puts Our Children at Risk

The main purpose of risk assessments is to ensure the safety of our families. By classifying offenders into risk levels, law enforcement can better monitor those who may pose a threat to public safety. Without these timely assessments, dangerous individuals may go unmonitored, which puts our children and families at risk.

As a mother, I cannot accept leaving the safety of my children to chance. If we do not have accurate information about the level of risk offenders pose, how can we protect our children? This bill would delay assessments and leave us uncertain about who is a threat. We need timely, clear information to ensure the safety of our kids and families. Delaying risk assessments would only increase the risk to our children, and that is unacceptable.

2. We Deserve to Know Who Is Living Among Us

As a mother, I want to know who is in my community and whether they pose a risk to my children. Risk assessments help me make informed decisions about where I send my children, whether it's to school, after-school activities, or even just playing outside. If this bill passes, parents like me will continue to be left in the dark about who might be living nearby, and whether they pose a threat to our kids.

3. Rehabilitation Is Important, But We Need to Know the Risk

I believe in second chances and that people can change. However, as a mother, I also know that some offenders may still pose a risk to our children. Risk assessments are crucial in determining who needs supervision and who can be safely reintegrated into the community. Delaying those assessments leaves us uncertain about who may still be dangerous.

I support rehabilitation for offenders who have shown they can change, but it is important that we have accurate and up-to-date information about their risk levels. Without timely assessments, offenders who may still pose a threat could go unmonitored. This delay could prevent law enforcement from taking the proper actions to protect our children and families.

4. Lack of Accountability for the State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision
I believe that the State Board should be held accountable to complete risk assessments in a timely manner. If this bill passes, it will remove that accountability and put our community at greater risk. Parents like me rely on the system to be transparent, efficient, and accountable when it comes to our children's safety. This bill weakens the system designed to protect us.

5. We Need a Clear Timeline for Our Safety

As a mother, I need to know that the system works in a clear and predictable way. Timely risk assessments are essential to understanding who poses a risk to our children and families. If there is no deadline for these assessments, there will be uncertainty about whether offenders are being properly classified and monitored. We need the system to work, and having no deadline would only make it harder for parents to ensure the safety of their kids.

In conclusion, I urge you to oppose this bill and keep the deadline for assessing existing sex offender registrants. As a mother, I want to ensure my children are safe from those who may harm them. We deserve to know who is in our communities and whether they pose a risk. I urge you to reconsider this bill and prioritize the safety of our children and families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nicole Kelleher