

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. My name is Shirley Ferley from Paola, Kansas. I speak against SB 288. I begin with questions. Why? Where are the statistics for this bill? Was the reason because someone felt uncomfortable being around a registered citizen at a school dance with his child, as the news media portrayed? How do you know the person who is the real offender at the dance isn't Janey's father, who is not on the registry? The statistics are not there. Approximately 95% or more of those on the registry are first time offenders who will never commit the same crime or another crime again. Not only will it further punish a registered citizen who is trying to move on with their life as a law-abiding citizen, it will continue to punish his or her children or grandchildren as well as spouse, friends and families. This bill will cause more harm than good.

Statistically, if another crime is committed, it will happen within the first 5 years. After 10 years it is very unlikely. The news on channel 41 and an article about the man who had permission to be at the dance, said the man was convicted in 2011. That was 14 years ago. Has he committed another crime since? When does the medieval punishment end?

One of many reasons to abandon this bill is because of Ted and others like him. Ted was 21 when he was at a party and had a relationship with a minor at the party. The minor should not have been at the party. She has never held any blame toward Ted. After the initial arrest, trying to cope with what was happening to him, he turned to alcohol and drugs. This second, albeit not the same crime, put him on the registry for life. Ted eventually found love and a job and now has a beautiful family. The important part is that he is a great father. That was over 25 years ago. This law would not allow him to be with his children for any of his children's school events.

I present you with a copy of the 2022 suggested revisions to the penal code for sex offenders, from the prestigious American law Institute. A few items to take note of for the judiciary committee:

1. No juvenile under 18 on the registry with narrow exceptions. Pg 25 (3)
2. Reduction of registration to annually. Pg 29 213.11E
3. Registration limited to duration of 15 years with ability to petition off. Pg 31 213.11F

4. Failure to register would result in a misdemeanor instead of felony. Pg 33 213.11G (1)
5. Confidentiality: No community (public) notification. Limited notification of those on the registry to U.S. Marshall and local law enforcement. Notification to victims and those who are required to receive only. It could be a felony to give out information to those who are not allowed to receive information on a registrant. Pg 33 Confidentiality 213.11H

I implore you to banish SB 288. It is segregation, discrimination, hatred and punishment not based on facts.

P.S.

The registry was originally private for local law enforcement to monitor the newly released parolee from prison for a short time. I remember when it became public a little over 30 years ago for those with **second offenses** only. I live in a rural setting. When the registry became public, there was a man on the registry who lived approximately two miles away, whose son rode the bus with my son. I did not know this person and thought he must be a despicable terrible person. He was someone I did not want to get to know and never did due to lack of knowledge. It is time for change.