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KELLIE WARREN
11TH DISTRICT

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2404

Members of the Committee,

It is a rare occurrence that I testify in front of my own committee! It is certainly an honor to do so, and the reason is very important, and that's talk to you about HB 2404.

I crafted HB 2404 because of an incident at an elementary school in Blue Valley that exposed a loophole in our laws that must be addressed.

What happened was that a register sex offender was allowed to attend an elementary school dance. The man in question was indicted in 2010 in connection with an investigation into sharing sexually explicit images of minors on LimeWire, a peer-to-peer sharing platform. He pleaded guilty in 2011 to the distribution or receipt of child pornography via the internet and was sentenced to eight and a half years in prison, plus seven years of supervision on release, according to his court file.

The school district allowed him to attend because he had a "functioning parental relationship" with a student or students at the event, a district spokesperson said, and had received permission to be there, per school guidelines. While the school district is wisely in the process of reviewing this policy, we also need to address the fact that the man's presence was not a violation of state law.

SB 288 fixes this by making it unlawful for any sex offender who is 18 years of age or older and whose underlying crime for which the offender is required to register under the Kansas offender registration act was a crime against a victim who was less than 18 years of age to enter onto school property or attend a school activity.

With this unambiguous language, we will clear up any confusion and keep our kids safe. I strongly urge your support of this bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kellie", followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.