

Good morning, everyone, thank you for letting me give my testimony today on the issue surrounding registered sex offenders in or around schools.

My name is Colter Daubert, and I currently live in Johnson County and my kids attend the Blue Valley School District. I am a father to 2 beautiful daughters, one who is 13 and the other is 9. I have an awesome energetic son who is 5 years old as well. My kids mean the world to me, and I will do anything to protect them. I am also a coach associated with youth sports, those kids also mean a lot to me as well and protecting not just my own children but the ones I coach and live around the community are just as important.

On February 8th of 2025 my wife and I planned to attend a sweat heart dance at the elementary school for our 5- and 9-year-old children. We ended up arriving a little late but shortly after we arrived, we had heard some conversation around an issue that happened earlier. We had been told that a registered sex offender was allowed into the dance. I was told this person isn't even a parent, nor guardian to this child that attends this school that I speak of, he is the Fiancée and shares a home with the mother of this child. And they live in the backyard of the school. Needless to say, I was not happy with the situation and soon found out that the principal gave special permission to this individual to attend the dance. None of the parents that have kids at the school received any notice that this was going to happen so finding out this way was not a good situation. We soon found out that the principal took it upon herself to make the decision to let this man in, we also found out that the school board had nothing in place for this type of situation. After finding out about this and talking to more parents we started the process to get the Blue Valley School district to change the policies around registered sex offenders attending school events. We started to email the school board and then found out that Fox 4 KC was interested in the story. On Monday, February 10th some parents attended the school board meeting to address their concerns. While I was not able to attend, my wife did, but I did watch from home on the live stream where I soon found out the school board does not stream the speakers scheduled which I found interesting. I never got to hear or see anything the other parents had to say. While doing more research on this matter we ended up finding out that the state of Kansas has nothing in place either to stop registered sex offenders from going in to a school or even living near a school. This was an absolute shock to me and to a number of other parents. For years I grew up thinking if someone was on the registry they couldn't attend a school event or even live near a school.

Fox 4 then reached out to me about possibly giving an interview and I decided to do it because I knew we needed to get this out into the open and to make a change. Before my interview with Fox 4 I did some research and found out that this specific person that attended the dance was still on the registered sex offender list and must be until 2044. I also then found out the extent

of his crimes and that he served 8 years in prison for the conviction. Part of his crimes included hundreds of photos of children from the age of one year old to 10. All these photos had also been shared as well, not to mention numerous videos of children and a very horrific video of a young girl being sexually assaulted. Knowing all this I went into the interview with Fox 4 knowing that this is the time to make a statement and a change. During the interview I let them know that the goal isn't to just change the school district policies but to get this hopefully to a state level. Well praise God because here we are today talking about this change and what needs to happen. I thank God that Senator Warren saw the interview and decided to do something about it and proceeded to show up to the next school board meeting. When I think back to the event, I wonder what could have happened. What about those kids that got dropped off with their friends to attend a dance, what if that man would have had some type of trigger by seeing a little girl dancing and decided to take her. This is something me, nor any other parent should ever have to worry about. I also understand the different levels for the sex offender's registry and understand that each case is different. But we can't say that an offender with a lower-level sex crime won't do it again and turn it into a very heinous crime.

Protecting our children should be priority number one no matter if it's at a community level or a state level. This also is something that is not right or left this is something everyone can cross the aisle on to make a change for our children. Based on what I could find very few states have anything prohibiting registered sex offenders from going into schools and it's time that Kansas stands up and makes a change as well.

Thank you for your time and God Bless.