

STATE OF KANSAS
SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7646
kellie.warren@senate.ks.gov



14505 FALMOUTH ST.
LEAWOOD, KANSAS 66224
(913) 526-9647

KELLIE WARREN
11TH DISTRICT

It is a rare occurrence that I provide testimony in the committee I chair. It is an honor to do so, and the reason is very important, and that's to provide support for SB 288.

I submitted the bill because of an incident at an elementary school in the Blue Valley School District. The incident exposed a loophole in our laws that must be addressed. For complete transparency, I not only represent the Senate District where this school district and school is located, but it's a feeder school to the Blue Valley high school where my three daughters recently graduated, and my son is a sophomore. In addition, I personally know some of the families who attend the elementary school where this occurred.

Several weeks ago in February, a registered sex offender was granted permission to attend an elementary school parent/child 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 registered sex offender was not a parent. He was allowed to attend the dance with the elementary school student because the school principal and school district determined 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 and updating this policy, we also need to address the fact that the man's presence was not a violation of any state law.

SB 288 fixes this. The bill makes it a felony 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 C.", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.