



Kansas County & District Attorneys Association

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TO: Chairwoman Warren of the Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: Mike Kagay, District Attorney for Shawnee County

RE: Proponent Testimony for SB 288

Good Morning Chairwoman Warren and Members of Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony on behalf of the Kansas County and District Attorneys Association (KCDAA) in strong support of Senate Bill 288. We represent prosecutors across Kansas who are deeply committed to safeguarding our communities, especially our children. This bill is a critical step toward enhancing the safety of our students by restricting access to school properties and activities for certain registered sex offenders.

Many states have recognized the necessity of such measures and have enacted laws to restrict sex offenders from school premises and functions. By enacting Senate Bill 288, Kansas would join these states in implementing proven strategies to protect children from potential harm.

Research indicates that individuals convicted of sexual offenses against minors pose a significant risk of reoffending:

- A 2003 study cited by the U.S. Department of Justice found that sex offenders released from prison were 4 times more likely to be rearrested for a sex crime compared to non-sex offenders.
- A separate 2007 study found that 52% child sex offenders were charged with a subsequent sexual offense.

These statistics underscore the importance of proactive measures to limit opportunities for re-offense, particularly in environments where children are present.

Courts have generally upheld restrictions on sex offenders' access to certain areas, provided they are narrowly tailored to serve a significant governmental interest. Senate Bill 288 is carefully crafted to withstand constitutional scrutiny by specifically targeting individuals whose offenses involved minors and by clearly defining prohibited areas and activities.

As prosecutors, we have witnessed the devastating impact of sexual offenses on victims and their families. Allowing individuals with a history of such offenses to access school properties and activities not only endangers children but also undermines public trust in our ability to protect the most vulnerable. Senate Bill 288 empowers law enforcement and prosecutors with clear authority to act decisively in preventing potential threats, thereby

enhancing the safety and security of our educational environments. This bill represents a necessary and prudent measure to protect Kansas children from individuals who have demonstrated dangerous behavior. We respectfully urge the committee to support Senate Bill 288 and recommend its passage. Thank you for your consideration.