

Testimony in Support of Bill SB288

Why does the State of Kansas not have a law in place to safeguard our children from coming into contact with sex offenders at school? This is a question every concerned parent is asking. While Missouri and Illinois have laws that prohibit sex offenders from entering schools, Kansas has nothing in place. Are our children less valuable?

The safety and well-being of our children must always be our top priority. Schools should be places of learning, growth, and security—safe havens where children can thrive without fear. Yet, this fundamental expectation was recently shattered when a registered sex offender, with a history of crimes against minors, was allowed to attend a school dance at a Blue Valley elementary school. This individual had no biological or stepchild enrolled at the school. He took videos of children dancing, making many parents uncomfortable before he was eventually asked to leave. Shockingly, parents were never informed of his presence beforehand, nor was he being monitored.

This lapse in oversight is unacceptable. Just last week, parents at the same school received an email stating that a child required emergency medical attention, leading to a temporary closure of the hallway. What poses a greater risk to our children—an isolated medical emergency or the presence of a known child predator?

The only thing worse than a tragedy is knowing it could have been prevented. Time and time again, we have seen the devastating consequences of failing to act before it is too late. When a sex offender is able to integrate into a school environment and use non-coercive strategies to manipulate and harm children, the risk is too great to ignore. Rather than waiting for another heartbreaking incident, I urge the State of Kansas to take proactive measures. Convicted child sex offenders should be strictly prohibited from entering any school attended by minors. Without such a law, these predators will continue to infiltrate our schools and attempt to gain the trust of our children.

Kansas policies must reflect our commitment to protecting children from known threats. Strengthening background checks, enforcing strict visitor policies, and implementing clear safeguards are necessary steps to prevent avoidable harm. The responsibility falls on you, our lawmakers, to represent parents, educators, and community members by taking decisive action before another child becomes a victim.

Sincerely,
Karen Ng