

Greetings.

I am Karen Loganbill from Moundridge, Kansas. I speak against SB 288.

Why must we set apart a particular group to target and victimize? If someone is incarcerated with a sexual charge, they soon learn that they are the worst of the worse and are at a high risk for assault.

Unfortunately, the targeting and victimizing does not just occur for this group on the inside. They receive it from the outside as well.

After someone charged with a sexual crime serves their sentence, their punishment continues. They are placed on a public registry, often for life, with no ability to prove they are no longer a threat. No amount of good work, remorse, or rehabilitation will help eliminate their continual punishment.

No evidence indicates that those who have a sexual charge are more likely to reoffend than those with other charges.

The registry makes it difficult to obtain a job of choice, develop and maintain personal relationships, find housing, and end-of-life care. They do not take their punishment alone. Their children, spouses, siblings, nieces and nephews, and parents also receive the punishment. Families are kept apart, isolated, and shamed.

Senate Bill 288 will only expand the injustice. It will prevent a grandfather, who as an 18-year-old had sexual relations with a 16-year-old, from attending his grandchildren's school programs years after he made his mistake, even though he has had no other offense.

How fair is that?

It is time to eliminate injustice instead of expanding injustice.

Senate Bill 288 must be rejected.