

HB0531 - Criminal Procedure - Sexual Offenders - Lifetime Supervision

SUPPORT

Natasha Melissa Robey
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Delegate Clippinger,

I am writing in support of HB0531, as this bill would expand the probation term for anyone convicted of Sexual Abuse of a Minor to lifetime supervision. Currently, offenders convicted of this crime become Tier III Registered Sex Offenders for life, however they are only on probation for 5 years. The Sex Offender Registry itself is primarily a directory of information, with limited actual restrictions. Additional restrictions such as no unmonitored contact with minors, mandatory therapy, or drug testing, are only available through probation. Having only a 5 year probationary term for these types of offenders leaves many years in which an offender is still required to be on the Sex Offender Registry, but is not also under the supervision and monitoring of a Probation Officer.

This bill affects me and my family personally. A relative has committed several sexual abuse crimes against children, and while he will remain on the registry, he will not be monitored to help ensure safety to his previous victims and to the rest of the community.

HB0531 is necessary in order to better protect the community, especially children, from already convicted offenders and reduce the number of repeat offenses.

Sincerely,

Natasha Melissa Robey
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