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House Judiciary Committee

Re: House Bill 531-Support Favorable

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Members of the Committee:

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will be sexually abused in their lifetime. However only 6 out of every 1000 rapists will ever be sent to prison. (Rainn.org).

The Bureau of Justice Statistics have found that release sexual offenders were four times more likely to be rearrested for a sex crime than any other group of offenders. However, the percentage for reoffending drops when an individual is on supervision. For example, 79% of violent offenders reoffend within 6 years compared to 43% within 5 years of offenders on supervision. This is what we are trying to change. We want to reduce the number of sexual offenders who reoffend, and we want to reduce the number of victims of sexual assault.

However, we are failing to protect a category of victims at this time. Under Criminal Procedure Section 11-723, as it currently reads, Lifetime Sexual Offender Supervision is only available in cases of Sexual Abuse of a Minor if the victim is 12 or younger. Further, although the Legislature determined in 2017 that there was no legal difference between Second Degree Rape and Second Degree Sexual Assault, Criminal Procedure Section 11-723 still categorizes them differently. As the statute reads now Lifetime Sexual Offender Supervision is available for any second degree rape, but is only available for two categories of Second Degree Sexual Assault. This is clearly not what this legislative body intended in 2017. Victims of unconsented anal penetration, fellatio, cunnilingus and digital penetration should be treated the same and provided the same protections as victims of unconsented vaginal intercourse.

Thank you for your time and deliberation on this bill.


Aisha N. Braveboy