

SB0333 - Criminal Procedure - Sexual Offenders - Lifetime Supervision -  
SUPPORT

Stephanie Midgett

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Senator Smith,

I am writing in support of SB0333, 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. We recently had a local offender who was on probation offend again. What if he wasn't still on probation? Would he have even been arrested? Molestation with someone outside of their normal household has a 10% chance of conviction if there was no penetration. I was told this by a St.Marys county detective. That is disgusting that a man can touch, my child, your child or any child inappropriately cause them to have nightmares, anxiety, depression, self-harming behavior and our justice system basically says its ok for them to do. Something needs to change to protect the innocence of our children.

SB0333 is necessary in order to better protect the community, especially children, from already convicted offenders and reduce the number of repeat offenses.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Midgett