

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL SB0049 - FAVORABLE
Criminal Law - Person in a Position of Authority - Sexual Offenses With a Minor

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings
Committee

FROM: Kevin Hencke
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As a new parent, I'm ever more passionate about improving our society, both for my family and for everyone. This includes formalizing and enforcing the trust that we place in our children's authority figures.

We must demand that adults teaching or caring for our children not abuse trust by becoming sexually predatory. Although we currently criminalize a school teacher pursuing a relationship with a young pupil, the law must be expanded to a broader set of teacher roles, like clergy, tutors, and gym instructors.

It's intuitively obvious to parents that any adult mentor / child mentee relationship is a harmful and wrong environment for sexual expression, and that adults who pursue such relationships must be punished and barred from this environment in the future. Children do not fully understand the nature of these risks, and must be protected via legal force.

Past victims of this loophole have testified to the damage it has done to their lives, to their own lack of closure, and to the danger these predators have posed and do still pose to other children.

I request that the committee issue a favorable report for SB0049.