

To the Editor and the People of New Hampshire -

We are the parents of an 18 year old girl who was stalked and a 16 year old friend who was sexually assaulted by a 3 times convicted sexual predator. We are upset about the SB500 bill Governor Lynch signed into law and became effective October 1, 2010.

As per our representatives and Senator from our District, it was presented to the House and Senate to address 'non-violent' offenders' recidivism issues. Somewhere in the amended version - it includes ALL criminals - non-violent, violent and sexual predators. Perhaps the author of the amended version knows the habits of the House and Senate - once reworded - they don't bother to re-read the amended bill and it is sent forth for vote and passage. Upon questioning our reps and Senator - all but one admitted they did not re-read the amended bill. One of the reps questioned Commissioner Wrenn about the inclusion of violent/sex offenders and that he was uncomfortable with that part of the bill. He was told "We're working on it".

This bill was fast tracked - it took a mere TEN WEEKS from authorship to passage. Our legislature normally doesn't move that fast. What was the reason for this?

This bill has many flaws in it. The worst part of this bill is the 90 day penalty for parole violations. When you have a sex predator who refuses to attend required sex offender treatment programs, lack of participation in programs that are required, is known to have pornographic material in his home, hangs out with a pregnant high school girl and assaults a 16 year old - do you want him out on the street in 90 days? He represents himself as being 21 years old, when in fact, he's 31. This particular predator was on parole until 2017.

He assaults a young girl, is arrested, waits in jail to see if he will be charged with felonies or misdemeanors, then arrives in court with a smug look, waving to his girlfriend and family. He knows the system and he plays the system.

Thankfully, the judge had ordered a pre-sentence investigation. His file is 4 inches thick. She notes his cocky demeanor and cavalier attitude. And she sees right through him - a predator who has 'no remorse and you just don't get it. You think this is a game and you are a danger to society'. She handed him the maximum sentence of 1 year for the simple assault and 1 year for the sexual assault.

He was supposed to return to prison to finish out the remainder of his parole time (7 years) PLUS the two additional years. He has so many parole violations accrued that his time could have been extended for up to 40 years!

He must serve the two years. Maybe he will also qualify for the 9 months early release so he will only serve 15 months. After his release - whatever violation he commits, only 90 days! NINETY days.

We feel that the 9 month pre-release could serve the public and the parolee well. It is a positive goal - for NON VIOLENT offenders. Sexual Predators and Offenders are included in this. They were not supposed to be.

Guidelines for release - mandatory strict supervision, electronic bracelets, GPS are supposed to be in place. As yet, there is NOTHING in place. No new corrections/parole positions have been created. "Training" started yesterday.

We would like to be assured that there are support systems in place - jobs lined up, housing insured, programs to attend and intensive supervision. That intensive supervision consists of 2 monthly face-to-face meetings with the probation officer and an electronic monitor. Real intense, huh?

SB500 literally handcuffs the Parole Board - officers who have their fingers on the pulses of these criminals. They lose all discretionary powers to assess additional time to the criminals. Might as well save the state more money and close the doors to that office!

This bill was introduced as a cost cutting measure to save the state money. This is a lie. The money 'saved' is merely a reallocation to fund the programs needed to service the parolees. A shell game or smoke and mirrors?

Do you think that any one that is victimized during a crime will EVER come forward to testify in court knowing that the violator will get 90 days if he is a parolee? We think not. If it wasn't for the investigation in our case, the police would never have turned up the other victim. And we don't know how many more there may be. How about the fear these predators leave upon their victims? We were very lucky - our daughter was pretty savvy. But an innocent 16 year old who was probably flattered that an 'older man' was paying attention to her - what did her naivete get her? A sexual assault. And the governor and his staff are willing to let these vermin back onto our streets and we will be a 'safer' New Hampshire.

Fix the unconditional 120% AND 9 month release provisions. Give the discretionary power back to the Parole Board - it's their job.

In June the governor called an emergency session for the budget shortfall. Isn't this situation more important?

We are urging the governor to call an emergency session immediately and FIX this billnow. Suspend ALL parole hearings until SB500 is fixed. Our state is not made safer with this bill as it stands.

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