

I am in support of Bill HB1231. This bill only affects low level offenders, which statistically, will not re-offend. Please do not make the same generalization that much of the public does, sex offender does NOT necessarily mean child molester. Child molesters are usually convicted of a much higher felony which requires medium/high risk. I believe the biggest issue that the public has with this bill is that they only see sex offenders as child molesters, because most people believe that they are one and the same thing, however, they would be incorrect.

This bill allows low level offenders that were assigned low level at the time of their release/sentence the ability to advance themselves in life and family. Many offenders are unable to find jobs, let alone higher paying jobs because of the label that they have attached to them. If they do have a job, many times this status will also prevent them from advancing within a company.

Within 7 years, a low level offender has likely finished their sentence and their treatment that is required by law. Low level offenders that have abided by all the rules and laws will most likely not re-offend as they have experienced first hand the trauma and stigma to both themselves and to their families and friends. Will some re-offend? Possibly, but as I said before, highly unlikely.

So yes, I am in support of this bill as it gives honest people that made a mistake in their life a chance to improve their current living conditions with both employment and family. Write the bill so it is literally a one time shot that this can happen. If someone is given this chance to improve their lives and the lives of their families and they re-offend, simply bar them from having this chance again.