

“SEX OFFENDER” SOLUTION PROPOSAL

Submitted by - Dakota RSOL Family Solutions

The Defense attorney said: “They passed a terrible law in 2006 but it’s the law now so we have to abide by it. We want to send a loud and clear message that we don’t want them living in our state.” I replied, “Where do you want them to live?” He said, “We don’t care as long as they’re not in our state.....
AND DON’T THINK YOU CAN TRY TO CHANGE THE LAW!”

The judge said: “I don’t make the laws I am bound to enforce.”

The Governor and Attorney General said: “You need legislation to change the laws.”

The legislators say: “What is other states doing?” “Don’t tell the Governor we are discussing this.”
“We’ll have to do a study.”

The Senator candidates say: “It’s a tough subject.”

The victim’s say: “I didn’t say anything because I didn’t want to cause trouble for my family.”
“I didn’t want my Dad to go to jail, I wanted him to stop his inappropriate behavior.”

The convicted inmates say: “I tried to get help but was arrested when I sought treatment.”

The therapists say: “There is no known cure but it is manageable. Treatment does work!”

ME, I say, I am not a victim, I am not a survivor, I am a benefactor asking that you do the research and propose legislation that will STOP the behavior and keep the family intact. History has proven that “punishment” and “labeling” is NOT stopping sexual abuse and the law must be changed to “change the behavior” and HEAL the family.

Imagine you went to the Doctor and he/she told you that you had cancer, diabetes, an overactive thyroid or an addiction. There is no cure but it is manageable. You would understandably be devastated, but there is treatment available and with the support and love of your family you will face the challenges together and confront the illness head on.

BUT, what if he/she told you there was NO cure and it is a **crime** to have this condition so the authorities must be called immediately? The police inform you that you cannot return to your home, you are served a no contact with your family (not even a call to inform them of the situation) until you have been tried in a court of law. Twelve unqualified jurors decide your fate, the judge renders your sentence, and you will be sent to jail, often confined in solitary confinement for 23 hours a day and treated worse than an animal to convince you that you are the lowest scum on earth. You will be told when to get up, when to go to bed, when to eat, when or if you may call your family, when you may have visitors, and you will just have to tolerate it. You are told there is NO treatment available in many prisons.

After you have served your Mandatory Minimum sentence of rehabilitation (by “lifers” who reoffend with nothing to lose and guards whose job it is to “punish” you for your crime) you return to Society with a Label and restrictions on where you can live, your picture and home address are listed on the Internet

and you WILL be singled out and targeted by “the haters.” If you are fortunate enough to still have a family, your family will also become targets for “the haters.”

While cancer and other diseases are scary to every human being there is Hope and treatment is available. Your chances of that diagnosis may be equal to receiving the diagnosis and lifetime label of “sex offender” and there is NO option for treatment without the threat that anything you say can and will be used AGAINST you and you would be locked up for life. Yes, cancer and other bodily malfunctions are treatable illnesses and so are many “sex offenders” who are diagnosed and treated at the first signs or symptoms. Early detection and treatment must be made available to stop this “sex offender” epidemic. Because it is labeled a **crime** versus an **illness** there is NO Treatment, only a lifetime of punishment.

As a child and teen, incest was always talked about but remained a family secret because of the law. We were taught that “all men” (opportunists) may have been “a bad seed” (illness) and were a threat, including your Dad, Brother, Uncle, Cousin, or maybe even a neighbor. Girls were told, “If you get caught, it’s your own fault because a girl can run faster with her dress up than a man with his pants down.” But, if you were ever inappropriately touched or threatened, you were to tell a trusted loved one.

I am living proof and witness that once a “guilty” one was confronted (educated) with their wrong actions and spoken to; they never repeated the offense with anyone. Inappropriate *love* (groomed) was not acceptable and the behavior would be changed or they would have to go to jail.

Early intervention was effective but someone had to step up and confront the accused to change their behavior. We didn’t have sex therapists in the 50s so family took on the responsibility of “educating” our loved ones as to the effect it had on their (victim) loved one. And it wasn’t just my family, there were many others talked about.

Prison was for rapists and violent acts (Predators) who hunt, stalk, and *hurt* their victims.

If the law was changed so that a first time non-violent offense was a misdemeanor and an “individual family education plan” was developed by professionals to “heal the family” through education and resources we would begin to see **immediate** results. It is the “**family**” who needs educating that incest is NOT OKAY, that it is inappropriate, and they need to be educated on the effect it has on the “**victim**” who is living with a dark secret. Children, professionals, and bystanders would “speak up” if there was a promise for HELP for the family instead of destruction and a lifetime label. “**The Family**” is in dire need of “trench training.” The very law meant to protect children is what creates the silence and allows this epidemic to continue.

Please join in asking for legislation to confront and address ways to PREVENT this from happening to the 95% of the children who are being abused (*inappropriately loved*) by loved ones and are willing to endure rather than report for FEAR OF WHAT THE LAW WILL DO TO THEIR WHOLE FAMILY.

It is time to speak up and demand change to protect children with Prevention (Confidential Behavioral Therapy) versus Family Punishment (prosecution and persecution). First time offenders deserve a second chance and the opportunity to seek and receive TREATMENT!

Intervention versus Prosecution For First Time Non-Violent Offenders

Heal the Family Change the Behavior versus Punish the Behavior

Intervention/Diversion Benefits:

1. Protects **ALL** children with a promise of resources and encourages them to tell to **stop and change the behavior** versus the loss of family. (95% of offences against children are committed by a family member or someone close to them who are not on the registry and they remain silent *because of harsh laws.*) Behavior Therapy is covered by most insurance companies paid for by the individual, not the taxpayers. **These are the children we are failing to protect.**
2. Children would be encouraged to immediately report.
3. The cost of behavior therapy is covered by most Medical Insurance policies. Children will be saved, the offender will be treated, taxes would go down, and the deficit would decline.
4. Some abusers are unaware they have a problem until they have inappropriately touched a child. Then, they are unable to seek professional treatment because of the Mandatory reporting laws. There is NO confidential treatment available to them, because anything you say will be used against them creating more punishment. They continue with NO treatment until possibly many other children are molested before they are reported, and many do not receive any type of treatment in prison. *Stop Child Molestation* by Dr. Gene Abel and Nora Harlow states many are treatable and manageable and give examples of effective treatment.
5. The behavior would be addressed if confidential treatment was offered without the threat of prison and many could be treated for their addiction.
6. Cover-ups would be eliminated if treatment versus punishment was an option.
7. The removal of all porn sites versus legally monitored sites would decrease our cost to taxpayers for prosecution and incarceration for all those imprisoned as the result of a “sting” operation.
8. There would be no need for a public registry because those truly a threat to children and Society would be incarcerated. People previously on the registry would not have to fear incarceration for failure to register and taxpayers would not have to support them again.
9. The cost of treatment (paid by health insurance) is minimal versus building more prisons at the taxpayer’s expense.
10. Future, additional victims will be prevented.
11. Taxpayers would save billions on prosecution, incarceration, and the registry.
12. Overcrowding in prisons would be eliminated.
13. Families would not have to face a lifetime of shame.
14. Many lives would be saved for those who choose suicide to avoid the legal system.

We must take the “**weapons**” away from the child molester. Those weapons are the “**laws**” that provide the power and control over their victim. If you tell, “I will have to go to prison, you will never be able see me, our family will be divided, and you may be put in foster care.” Replace these **laws** “**weapons**” with if you tell me I will have to change my behavior. This **Empowers** the child to defend themselves without the threat of the loss of their loved ones and everything dear to them.

Early intervention is the only true way to protect the 90-95% of children who are being sexually abused by a first time offender. I was raised by what Society would label a sex offender and know my Dad had one victim at an early age and he taught me my morals, love, forgiveness, respect, and unconditional love. By personal experience I know for a fact that behavior can be changed and that people can live their lives with their family with respect and dignity while confronting their wrongdoing.

If confidential interventions, having no media or police, were held for first time offenders with the promise of education and resources, so that the family is kept intact versus loss of family, incarceration, and a life time registry, children could and would report to stop and change the behavior. We are **NOT protecting these (90-95%)** who choose to remain silent for fear the “law” will destroy their family and they will lose all that is dear to them and possibly placed in foster care.

TAKE ACTION: This issue should be a priority for every **American**, “**PROTECTING ALL THE CHILDREN.**” They are the future and it is the **American Way**, the right thing to do!

INTERVENTION (SOLUTION) PLAN IFP (Individual Family Plan)

Give children the opportunity to confidentially report to someone they TRUST; not a stranger who takes them out of the home and places them in foster care with strangers. This person should be someone known to them, a school counselor, their pastor, priest, or clergy, family member, close friend, or their physician who already knows their growth pattern; any person who the victim finds comforting. This person should be allowed to accompany the victim to all meetings for moral support and assurance as they confront the abuser and work toward healing.

That person could call DSHS (or other designated Organization trained on sex specific behavior), who would inform the family and schedule a confidential Intervention and as a “team” decide the most feasible method to promote healing and a healthy environment for the whole family. The Intervention Provider would decide which family members should receive confidential Behavior Treatment to fully understand, acknowledge the abuse, accept responsibility, confront, forgive, and follow through to assist the family in their treatment and healing.

The family should be financially responsible for family treatment (which is paid for by most insurance companies) but the cost of treatment is minimal compared to hiring an attorney to defend against charges. Many times the cost of legal fees causes the family to lose their homes, investments and retirement.

Just like doing an IEP (Individual Educational Plan) for a troubled child; it takes a “whole team” to develop an IFP (Individual Family Plan) that is appropriate for each individual family. Every child is unique and so is every family. Sometimes healing the “family” is as important as healing each individual member of the family.

- This Intervention would benefit the victim, the abuser, the family, and the whole community would benefit from the solution reached through empathy, understanding, and change.
- The law and the court should be the last resort if there is no hope for changing the behavior or keeping the family intact. A “qualified” sex specific therapist could make that decision based on true confidential facts.
- Allow a qualified sex therapist to determine who is a threat versus twelve unqualified jurors, an overzealous prosecutor and/or judge, or a defense attorney who encourages you to take a plea.
- Abolish the “Mandatory Reporter” sign and allow confidential treatment to get control of this National epidemic.
- Abolish the “Public Registry” and divert those funds to prevention and allow children to “report” to change the behavior.
- Retrain guards and parole officers to become sex behavior therapists to fill the shortage of trained therapists.