



“CHILD SAFE ZONES” MAKING CHILDREN MORE SAFE FROM PEDOPHILES IN ENVIRONMENTS THAT SPECIFICALLY SERVICE CHILDREN

To date there is no active Rhode Island law enforcing “child safe zones”. There is for the most part, a moral and ethical obligation, not to employ a pedophile in facilities entrusted to offering services, in an environment specifically for our children.

Child Safe Zones are not a novelty concept . Child Safe Zone legislation exists in at least 20 other states in varying description, but with the same intent.

Child Safe Zones extend upon the concept of residential restrictions , “ where pedophiles must not live with a proximity to schools and playgrounds, to include the employment issue. Employment zones pedophiles would be restricted to work are where they would have direct and indirect access to children, whether educationally, rehabilitation, entertainment, recreationally, etc...

The current legislation introduced in the House is Bill H7764 and Senate Bill S2751 both describe these environments specifically.

Rhode Islander’s have been under a false sense of security that their children are safe attending and participating in a variety of environments specific to them. To date these locations carry only a moral ethical obligation not to hire a pedophile in a facility servicing children entrusted to keep our children protected. They are expected to do a background check which is not always 100 % effective.

A recent investigative report by Tim White on WPRI Channel 12 revealed a currently registered “level 2” risk sex offender knowingly employed as a contract electrician at Hasbro Children’s Hospital . This individual had access to any floor, any wing, at any time of day or night, whether on shift or not. Needless to say a level 2 sex offender deemed to pose a moderate risk to reoffend and should not be working in a facility with such access to children.

It was at the time of this revelation that the Alliance for Safe Communities met with WPRI and discussed options and laws existing in other states. The Alliance stated we would move forward with introducing such legislation. In committing

ourselves to the task of following through, the Alliance met with the attorney general's office and began a process of investigating and crafting such legislation

The current legislation proposed protects the employer in that the employee must verify they have not been convicted of sexual offenses that would have qualified them to be on the Registry. Level 1 sex offenders who are not currently listed on the public registry would be included. Those who appealed their levels and dropped down, or off the registry, but had once committed a felony sex act upon a minor would be included. With this approach the opportunity for pedophiles who would normally "fall through the cracks" would be sealed. The consequences for an employer would only involve those that chose to knowingly hire and keep employed a sex offender regardless of the opportunity for them to avoid the inevitable risk posed to our children.

When the Alliance testified in support of this legislation we cited other environments where known sex offenders were hired to work with the children directly with disastrous results. One such example was a children's hospital in West Palm Florida where a knowingly hired nursing assistant, with sexual misconduct issues sexually assaulted a young boy who was a patient while in his own bed in the hospital one night.

The Alliance was able to demonstrate with a wealth of data that pedophiles are indeed seeking children out comparable to prey in the locations they most assuredly will be found. The evidence outlined was extracted from Rhode Island within the last three years, and nationwide within the last two years as well as some additional later cases.

Some locations highlighted by the Alliance where pedophiles are implanting themselves to get close to their prey are ; Day Cares, Schools, Soccer and other Youth leagues, Swimming Associations, Hospitals, Rehabilitative and Treatment Centers , and Amusement Centers.

Pedophiles groom not only their victims but their families by putting themselves in positions of power, trust , and authority. Through the implementation of false trust, guilt, threats , and coercion pedophiles are able to silence a majority of their victims to never report their assaults.

The Alliance for Safe Communities will have a new page created for " Common Ground's " May issue on this topic. We will reveal the data given to our legislators and allow you to decide whether our legislators and leadership are worthy of holding their appointed seats and act on what is becoming a national epidemic and an impending threat to our children in the state of Rhode Island.

The page to be added to our website is as follows by title, " BUILDING A CASE OF EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT " CHILD SAFE ZONES" . Our website is www.asc-ri.org

Alliance for Safe Communities is a 501 non profit dedicated to assisting Rhode Islander's with their goal to live in a safe environment promised to them by government. As a liason between community members, law enforcement, other nonprofits locally and nationally, media networks, and legislators, we hope to offer a voice to those, especially victims who might otherwise not be heard.