



Letter to the Editor - June 28, 2006

“Jessica” still not safe in Maryland

Children are a little safer now that Maryland Law requires stricter monitoring of child sex offenders.

BUT still not safe....

We have come to understand that most criminals who rape children don't just do it once; they repeat the horror many times and with many victims. In fact, it seems they repeat it as often as they think they can get away with it. I believe the only thing society can do to ensure that a child rapist does not hurt any more children is to lock them up in jail for a very long time. That's why for several years now, most people have been encouraging our government to pass "Jessica's Law," which would make the penalty for child rape a mandatory minimum 25 year imprisonment, with no chance of parole.

Jessica's Law is now protecting children in 16 states with 9 others set to pass it this year. Last week legislators in Annapolis had their second opportunity this year to pass Jessica's Law. Sadly, they decided to mock voters by creating an image of passing Jessica's Law when in fact they actually did little more to protect kids. Under the new law, most child rapists would only face a 5 year minimum jail sentence. For example, a 50 year old man found guilty of raping an 8 year old little girl might only be jailed for a minimum of 5 years. The worst part is that in 2.5 years he might be eligible for parole and could even be released "for good behavior."

The failure of lawmakers in Annapolis to protect our kids has left them vulnerable.

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