Honorable Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I strongly oppose the proposed bill that would limit the classification of sex offenders convicted before January 1, 2014, into a risk level only under specified circumstances. This bill threatens to undermine both public safety and the rehabilitation of offenders, and it has personally impacted my family and community in significant and troubling ways.

As a member of this community, I have seen firsthand the dangers posed by unclassified sex offenders. These individuals, having been convicted before 2014, walk freely among us without risk assessments that would allow us to determine whether they pose a continued threat to public safety. This is not a theoretical issue for me—it's personal. In recent months, unclassified offenders have been seen taking pictures at our local schools and girls' sports practices, raising alarm among parents and children. This situation is deeply unsettling and highlights the very real risk posed by the lack of classification.

The absence of risk assessments for these offenders creates a dangerous gap in our community safety efforts. By singling out those convicted before 2014, this bill creates an arbitrary divide that leaves certain offenders unclassified and unmonitored. This is not only unfair but also irresponsible.

Furthermore, risk assessments are crucial in helping law enforcement and community organizations make informed decisions about supervision, treatment, and monitoring. Without proper classification, we lose a vital tool for keeping track of offenders who may still pose a risk to public safety.

The idea that sex offenders convicted before 2014 should be treated differently than those convicted after that date is deeply flawed. Risk classification should be based on current evidence of an individual's behavior, not on arbitrary distinctions of when an offense occurred. This bill would create unnecessary disparities in the treatment of offenders, undermining the fairness and effectiveness of our criminal justice system. We need a system that applies equally to all sex offenders, one that assesses each individual's current risk level in a fair and consistent manner.

Moreover, policies that limit classification create additional barriers to rehabilitation and reintegration. Individuals who have served their time and completed rehabilitation programs should not be held back by a system that treats them as perpetual risks

without cause. By refusing to classify them based on their current risk level, we prevent these individuals from moving forward with their lives. When offenders are denied the opportunity to demonstrate their rehabilitation through classification, it perpetuates cycles of alienation, discouragement, and often recidivism.

I want to stress again that this is not just a matter of theory or policy—it is a matter of public safety and the well-being of our community. The bill's failure to classify offenders convicted before 2014 puts us all at risk. The lack of monitoring means that we have no way of knowing if certain individuals have changed or if they still pose a threat. Without a classification system, we cannot allow this to continue.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider this proposal and ensure that all sex offenders, regardless of the date of their conviction, are assessed and classified based on their current risk to society. The lack of classification for offenders convicted before 2014 jeopardizes public safety, undermines rehabilitation efforts, and continues to expose communities like mine to unnecessary risks. We cannot afford to allow this gap in our public safety system to persist, and we must take action to ensure that all sex offenders are properly classified and monitored for the protection of our families and children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nicole Kelleher
Concerned community member