

EXHIBIT 2  
DATE 2/23/07  
HB 643

Madame Chair and members of the committee:

For the record my name is Marissa Stockton and I am representing Eagle Forum, a National organization that lobbies for God, Country and family.

Today I come before you to support HB 643. HB 643 is a great bill because it puts some meat in a previous bill. This bill also shows extreme compassion for the minor victim and what they had endured when a crime was committed against them. With these strict & harsh penalties for sexual offenses against minor children it will make the sexual predator think before committing the crime.

I would like to tell you a story that happened to me while I was a minor. When I was delivering newspapers for the Helena Independent Record at an early hour of 5:00 a.m., I had a car full of guys drive by me. I didn't think much about it until I saw the same car again five minutes later. I began to take note that when they were approaching me, they were speeding with their car and then would slow down on purpose when they saw me and check me out. My mother and father had taught me that if this ever occurred while delivering newspapers how to handle the situation. Being scared, I knew that I had to put that back in my mind and focus on getting myself out of a potential dangerous situation. I started to run home, hiding in the shadows so as not to be seen. I made it home safely but this story could have ended much worse.

If we have more of a deterrent, like the harsher penalties stated in HB 643, then adult sexual predators would not seek out easy prey, like minors for their pleasures.

I ask the committee today to please vote for HB 643. We need to keep these adult predators off the street as long as we can and with these laws enforced these crimes would diminish and the individuals who have committed a crime against a minor would be in prison for a long time so as not to hurt another minor.

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