

Let me begin. I had 2 sons, one at the age of 5yrs. old and the other at the age of 7 yrs. abused by a Boy Scout leader. This abuse led to the findings of 3 other boys in the neighborhood who also were abused by the same scout leader.

To us this was a new home and a new neighborhood. One that we always dreamed about. This scout leader was thought by the neighborhood as an outstanding person.

He was our street representative and welcomed us to the neighborhood 2 months earlier. He and his family lived across the street from us, and he had a boy the same age as our younger 5 yr. old son.

One evening, I called my son inside, who was playing in the front of our house with his brothers, he came running from the home across the street. His pocket of his hooded was filled with bubble yum and when asked what he was doing in this neighbor's house he said, "he couldn't tell me that I would punish him. In his child-like expression he told me of the abuse. When I shared this with my husband , shortly later, and after much consideration and decision making, we decide to report it to the police.

Five police cars showed up in our driveway and the most ironic thing about the situation is that the scout leader showed up with his minister and apologized saying "he was sorry, and it would not happen again".

He was arrested, found guilty, and went to prison for sexual imposition and abuse for 5 children in our neighborhood. He was sentenced to 7-21 concurrent years. He was out in less than 7 yrs. I feel it was more like 5 1/2 yrs. and we were never notified by the court system that he was being released on parole.

Our advice from our family doctor was that we should do what we feel is necessary, but your son is "young", and he will probably never remember it. As a mom, I knew bad things happen but never knew there was such a thing as a "pedophile" or "side effects" like taking a bad medicine.

My son took his life at 18 yrs. old and as I look back, he had 3 side effects that he lived with quietly. He was a good student always seemed to have a zest for sports. His 8th grade football team won all league and the city championship. He was named the "most valuable defensive player" of their finale game. I am knowledgeable now and have been for years now. I know "pedophiles" prey on children (not just one) they have been overlooked and hidden in years. They cannot be cured and, in many cases, have been placed in position that deal with children and can have a lifetime effect on the children they abuse.

I have thoughts of my son so very often. The "WORSE" thought of all is the fact he would be alive today if he hadn't run into a "monster" at the age of "5". The second worse is that they are still fighting over laws to protect children. My son has been dead 32 yrs. now. How long does it take??? Who are we protecting or what are we protecting???

I'm not looking for sympathy only for your support for HB322. Ohio has the worse child abuse laws. Many seem to get around the laws. We need stricter laws and longer penalty. We need consecutive penalty versus concurrent penalty. We have people in authority not reporting child abuse allowing offenders to continue" time and time " again.

Now is the time to put yourself in the child's place and now is the chance to act against the "predators". Also, in making your decision remember the words of Christ, "Whatever you do unto a child you do unto me".