

April 18, 2016

Mayor Robert White
City of El Lago
411 Tallowood Dr.
El Lago, TX 77586

Dear Mayor White,

The *Houston Chronicle* reported on the lawsuits threatened by Texas Voices for Reason and Justice, citing your city as one of those affected. Rep. Jim Murphy filed HB 1872 during the last legislative session to amend and clarify the law so that General Law municipalities have explicit statutory authority to establish safety zones. The bill progressed further in the legislative process than any similar bill before it, but ultimately died on the House floor when time ran out of the Regular Session.

I am writing because Rep. Murphy intends to file the legislation again during the 2017 legislative session. We can help him, using the broad-based public support we all know exists for the measure. We simply need to quantify that support.

1. Sign and Share. Encouraging your residents to **sign the online petition** supporting safety zones. Anybody can access it at www.eustacetexas.org and click the red "Sign the Petition" button. The link (hosted by iPetitions.com) can be added to your city's website, Facebook page, etc. Residents are able to share the petition amongst friends and family via social media.
2. Urging your Council to **pass a resolution** calling on the Legislature to pass safety zones and sending it to Rep. Murphy's office with copies also sent to your state representative and state senator.
3. **Writing letters or emails** and sending them to Rep. Murphy, copying your state representative and state senator.
4. **Notifying local school boards** so that they and parents of students in the district may do all the above as well.

Apart from Texas Voices and their affiliated organization Reforming Sex Offender Laws (RSOL), we have encountered no natural opposition to this bill. Our challenge in getting it passed has been general lack of awareness and the size of the municipalities involved. On a local level, folks don't know about the seriousness of the problem until an ordinance has to be repealed or a sex offender moves near a school. On a statewide level, a single small town does not have the lobbying power that large cities have. Both problems can be effectively addressed

if we rally people within our cities and join forces. We can provide residents with a definitive solution to a dangerous problem, and Rep. Murphy's office is both educated on the issue and experienced with the means to get it passed.

We know the value of our little ones and how precious their innocence is. We know that most sex offenses against children are committed by someone in their social network, and putting convicted offenders near places children gather grants them easier entry into that network. We know the manipulative and insidious nature of the crime and the criminal who commits it. We have no choice but to take a stand—I propose we stand together.

Sincerely,



Elicia Sanders
Mayor
City of Eustace

903.425.4702

Contact details for Rep. Jim Murphy—

Mailing:

The Honorable Jim Murphy
Texas State Representative
House District 133
PO Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Email: Jim.Murphy@house.texas.gov

District Phone: 713.465.8800
Capitol Phone: 512.463.0514