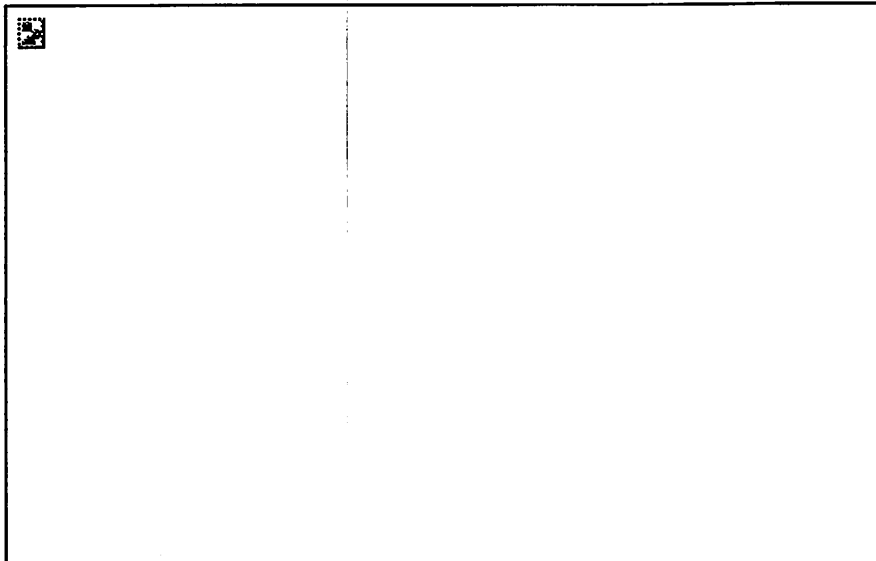


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About Aimee's Law



Aimee, left with sister Nancy Willard.

"Aimee's Law" Passes House 412-15!!!! Landmark Anti-Crime Legislation Passes Overwhelmingly Despite Partisan Atmosphere in Washington, DC

Washington, DC -- After almost two years of work with prominent victims, victims' rights, child advocacy and law enforcement groups, Arizona Congressman Matt Salmon's landmark anti-crime legislation, known as Aimee's Law, passed in the U. S. House today with an overwhelming 412-15 vote.

In May, Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania offered the bill in the Senate as an amendment to the Senate Juvenile Justice Bill, where it passed 81-17. Aimee's Law is also known as the No Second Chances for Murderers, Rapists, or Child Molesters Act.

"With the political posturing taking place in the Juvenile Justice debate this week, it's a relief that politics did not apply in the Aimee's Law vote. Today nearly every Member of the House of Representatives told states, in unison, that the days of revolving door justice must end," Salmon said. "Every year, 14,000 murders, rapes and sexual assaults are

'Aimee's Law' advances in Washington

May 7, 1999 - By SETH
AGULNICK - Delaware County
DailyTimes

"Aimee's Law," named for Brookhaven murder victim Aimee Willard, took a big step forward yesterday, gaining U.S. Senate approval as an amendment to the Juvenile Justice bill.

Aimee's Law seeks to punish states that release convicted murderers, rapists or child molesters if those felons later go on to commit another violent crime. Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., offered Aimee's Law as an amendment to the Juvenile Justice bill that's being debated by lawmakers. The amendment was approved by an 81-17 vote.

"We cannot stand by and allow violent criminals back into our communities to threaten the lives of our children," Santorum said. "My one regret is that this provision was not law before tragedy struck the Willard family."

Willard was a 22-year-old college student when she was kidnapped, raped and

committed by released murderers and sex offenders. Aimee's Law is a powerful step to end this completely preventable crime," he continued.

According to the Justice Department, the average time served by men released from state prisons for rape is just 5 1/2 years. For molesting a child, it is just 4 years. And for murder, it is just 8 years.

Aimee's Law would encourage states to keep murderers, rapists, and child molesters behind bars, and hold them financially accountable if they fail to do so. Under Aimee's Law, if a state releases a murderer, rapist, or child molester and that criminal later commits one of those crimes in a second state, the first state, using a share of its federal crime-fighting funds, will compensate the second state the cost of prosecuting and incarcerating the criminal.

"While this vote is historic, we can't rest until the president signs this into law. Our nationwide grassroots activists will keep the heat on until Aimee's Law is in force protecting our families," Salmon stated.

The bill is named after Aimee Willard, a 22 year-old star athlete at George Mason University who was raped and murdered in Pennsylvania by a released killer from Nevada.

The bill has been endorsed by the National Fraternal Order of Police, Childhelp USA, Kids Safe, and leading crime victim advocates, including Fred Goldman and Marc Klaas.

Santorum introduces bill in Senate named after Aimee Willard

by Ralph Vigoda
Philadelphia Inquirer Staff Writer
March 22, 1999

A bill named after slain college athlete Aimee Willard and designed to keep murderers and other violent offenders from early prison release was introduced in the U.S. Senate yesterday by Sen. Rick Santorum (R., Pa.). Called Aimee's Law, it would provide financial penalties for states that release a criminal who then commits a violent crime in another state.

Willard, 22, of Brookhaven, a lacrosse and soccer star at George Mason University in Virginia, was abducted, raped and murdered in June 1996 by Arthur Bomar, who was on parole for murder in Nevada.

Santorum made the announcement yesterday at the Delaware County Courthouse, where in October Bomar was convicted and sentenced to die for the killing. Santorum was flanked by Gail Willard, Aimee's mother, and U.S. Rep. Matt Salmon (R., Ariz.), who introduced similar

murdered in June 1996. The man later sentenced to death for that crime, Arthur Bomar, had been paroled from Nevada after a murder conviction there.

Under Aimee's Law, a state that releases a violent felon would have to pay the arrest, prosecution and imprisonment costs of another state if that convict commits another violent act. It would also require the state that released the criminal to pay as much as \$100,000 to the victims of the second attack or to their families.

Willard's mother, Gail, is a strong supporter of the proposal. "This is very encouraging," Willard said of yesterday's Senate vote, "especially since it's only been two months since Sen. Santorum stood with me outside the courthouse to introduce the legislation."

Willard believes Aimee's Law could prevent what happened to her daughter from happening to others. That's why we're pushing this so hard," she said. "Aimee is already dead. We're doing this for everyone else."

The \$5 billion, wide-ranging Juvenile Justice bill remains the subject of intense debate in the Senate. Even if it's defeated in its present form, however, Willard thinks

legislation in the House last year and reintroduced it last month.

Under Aimee's Law, if a state releases a violent criminal who commits a violent crime in another state, the second state can take federal funds from the first to pay for the apprehension, prosecution and incarceration of the criminal. That could run over \$100,000, the lawmakers said. "Money, I have found in Washington, is a very powerful incentive for states," Santorum said. Both lawmakers said they hoped to have hearings on the proposed law by summer. Santorum said he had a commitment from Sen. Orrin Hatch, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, to hold hearings "so we can get some attention and momentum on a national scale." He said he hoped to get it moved through the Senate this year either separately, or as part of broader crime legislation. Salmon said his bill had 66 bi-partisan cosponsors.

The message to states, Santorum said, is twofold: don't give violent offenders light sentences, and don't let them out of prison early.

"Aimee had no second chance at life," said Gail Willard. "She had no appeals of her death sentence."

'Aimee's Law' sails through the House

Nov. 10, 1998

HARRISBURG (AP) - Spurred by the murder of a college athlete who was abducted by a Nevada parolee, the state House yesterday unanimously passed a bill to toughen standards for accepting parolees from other state.

The bill, which passed 196-0, was drafted because of the murder of 22-year-old college athlete Aimee Willard. Ms. Willard's mother, Gail Willard of Brookhaven, has urged state and federal lawmakers to pass legislation.

The bill would toughen an interstate agreement that allows parolees and probationers to be supervised in other states. Bill sponsor state Rep. Thomas Gannon, R-161, of Ridley Township, says the current supervision guidelines in Pennsylvania are "loose." He said he expects the Senate to pass the bill to tighten them.

Ms. Willard was abducted from her car early June 20, 1996, and her naked and beaten body was found in a vacant North Philadelphia lot later that day. Arthur Bomar, 39, who was on parole from Nevada at the time of the crime, was sentenced to death last month for the murder, rape and kidnapping.

Aimee's Law could survive on its own because of the bipartisan support evident in yesterday's vote.

Gail Willard takes push for 'Aimee's Law' to D.C.

Feb. 26, 1999

From staff and wire reports

WASHINGTON -- Aimee Willard's mother joined Polly Klaas' father and other relatives of murder victims yesterday urging Congress to encourage tougher state sentencing guidelines.

Gail Willard and the others want the federal government to go after the pocketbooks of states that fail to adopt stiffer guidelines, hoping the financial threats would discourage states from letting out murderers, rapists and child molesters who would later commit other crimes. Such a statute -- called "Aimee's Law" -- was approved in Pennsylvania last year.

"If they are going to lose funds for failing to protect citizens, then they are going to start listening," said Marc Klaas, whose 12-year-old daughter, Polly, was taken from her Petaluma, Calif., home and killed in 1993 by a man with a long criminal record.

The proposed law would make

Bomar had been accepted into Pennsylvania because he had family in the state and a promise of employment.

The bill requires other states to provide several pieces of information about parolees who want to come to Pennsylvania, including a confirmation of employment or financial support, a psychological report or update, and records if the person was convicted of a sexual offense.

Convicted sex offenders would be required to submit to mandatory registration and public notification of all current addresses with the state police.

a state liable for another state's costs for apprehending, prosecuting and incarcerating an offender released from the first state. Under the measure introduced yesterday by Rep. Matt Salmon, R-Ariz., the transfer of money would occur by withholding federal crime grants from the first state and adding the amount to the second state's share.

"Right now, the criminals are running the system," said Willard, of Brookhaven, complaining that states too often parole criminal offenders before their terms are up.

Aimee Willard was kidnapped on the Media Bypass, raped and killed in 1996 by Arthur Bomar, who was on parole from Nevada at the time. Bomar was sentenced to death in October for the killing.

"We should keep people in prison who belong in prison so that there will be no more Aimees," Willard said. "People that are predators do not change ... Arthur Bomar never should have been on the streets."

Salmon said more than 14,000 murders, rapes and sexual assaults are committed each year by repeat offenders. Salmon's bill languished in Congress last year.

Critics of the measure say the bill does not give criminals a chance to rehabilitate and holds states responsible for events they cannot control. Many states also cannot afford to keep prisoners locked up without overcrowding.

Salmon said his bill was about

accountability.

"If the state is saying the criminal is rehabilitated and is not a threat to society any more, they have to back it up with something," he told a news conference.

Louis Gonzalez said he was tired of hearing excuses from state parole officers about mistakes or flaws in the system. Gonzalez's brother, a Franklin Township, N.J., police officer, was killed in 1995 during a traffic stop by a Robert "Mudman" Simon, a Warlock from Upper Darby who had been paroled 11 weeks earlier from a Pennsylvania prison.

Most crimes are prosecuted through state courts, over which Congress has no direct authority. The financial threats are designed to get around that restriction.

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