

RESOLUTION 2012-450

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN STATE OF NEW JERSEY SUPPORTING S-380/A-2027 THE "JESSICA LUNSFORD ACT"

WHEREAS, there is currently pending legislation in the Senate and Assembly that would pass the "Jessica Lunsford Act" which would increase penalties for those who commit sex crimes against minors and for those who harbor or conceal a sex offender; and

WHEREAS, currently New Jersey residents are frustrated with what they see as a lack of action and direction by the Legislature on comprehensive initiatives to more effectively protect our children from potential acts of violence committed by sexual predators; and

WHEREAS, this bill would prohibit convicted sexual offenders from living near schools, playgrounds and child care centers, as well as properly "tier" sex offenders prior to their release from prison; and

WHEREAS, a State Supreme Court decision handed down in 2009 that invalidated several local sexual offender residency ordinances seems to have brought any further action on major initiatives concerning sexual offenders to a standstill in the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, prior to this, several bipartisan bills were passed by the Legislature and enacted into law that included enhancing penalties for sex offenders who provided false address when registering as well as satellite monitoring for certain sex offenders; and

WHEREAS, most states have already passed the Jessica Lunsford Act into law. New Jersey is one of only eight (8) states without this law enacted; and

WHEREAS, our children are worthy of such legislation that will seek tougher penalties for sex offenders; and

WHEREAS, the safety of our children should be our first and foremost concern and should supersede the rights of any known sex offender.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Barnegat supports Senate Bill S-380/Assembly Bill A-2027 which concerns tougher laws for sex offenders and protects the safety and well-being of the children of the State of New Jersey; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to the following:

Governor Chris Christie
Senator Diane B. Allen – 7th Legislative District
Senator Steven V. Oroho – 24th Legislative District
9th Legislative District
All Ocean County Municipalities

CERTIFICATION

I, Sharon L. Auer, Acting Municipal Clerk of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee at their regular meeting held on the 20th day of August, 2012, in the Municipal Courtroom, 900 West Bay Avenue Barnegat NJ 08005

Sharon L. Auer
Acting Municipal Clerk