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EDITORIAL

Klein picks easy targets for justice reform

Posted 7/23/15

When activists throughout the state intensely lobbied earlier this year for passage of the Child Victims Act, which would end the statute of limitations on child sex abuse cases, state Sen. Jeff Klein didn't lift a finger. The legislation did not even come to the floor of the Senate, where he leads a coalition with majority Republicans, or the Assembly for a vote.

Now Mr. Klein, the head of a group of breakaway Democrats in that coalition, is talking tough about sex offenders with a condition called antisocial personality disorder. He says convicts who fit the bill should be subject to New York's "civil confinement" law, which gives the state morally and legally dubious power to detain rapists and others in special treatment centers even after they have served their sentences.

There are plenty of differences between the abusers at Horace Mann School, who never had their day of reckoning in court due to the statute of limitations, and the kind of sex offenders Mr. Klein is targeting now. But the salient difference in Albany is that the latter group isn't protected by powerful lobbies like the Catholic Church, which has fought the Child Victims Act out of fear of the lawsuits that could result if the legislation passes.

Apparently, if you are an abuser with powerful backing, you have nothing to fear from Mr. Klein. If you're an easy target like convicted sex offenders and can earn the senator a headline in *The Daily News*, start saying your prayers.

Mr. Klein's recent proposal might just be forgotten once the legislature reconvenes in the fall. But if the Senate takes up his idea, lawmakers should subject it to the utmost scrutiny. Serious constitutional concerns are at issue. While the Supreme Court has previously ruled in favor of "civil confinement" laws, that ruling — and whether it should apply to the group Mr. Klein has in mind — are still debatable. There are also important questions about the connection between antisocial personality disorder and crime. Detaining people in treatment centers as a way to keep them off the streets seems like a bad way to treat offenders.

Keywords

Jeff Klein, Child Victims Act, civil confinement

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noclist

"Detaining people in treatment centers as a way to keep them off the streets seems like a bad way to treat offenders."

Protecting the rights of convicted sex offenders over the potential victims of their crimes is absurd. Klein has my support. The more of these animals we can lock up to protect our kids, the better.

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Speaking of "Animals" Is there any statue of limitations for murders?

I used to think not

Lets say for example an unarmed child is shot in the back and his unarmed mother while holding an infant is also murdered by being shot by a sniper, should the guilty party be held accountable or allowed to run for president of the USA?

Well "we are the president" did this kind of murder on Ruby Ridge and HELLery called NYC police murders with the Diallo shooting.

Police are poor and Hellery is rich, so money talks even if she says she is "broke" living rent free in Westchester

This is America and money allows many guilty people to get away with sexual abuse and murders

All I can say is "what difference does it make" what the politicians do as very few are ever held accountable

Selective amnesia, concussions and heart ailments on demand, lying in front of the congress or senate or in courts means nothing any more.

The more perverted a politician is the more they are respected by their party and some even given a TV position

The best members of the democratic party for example Elliot Spitzer, Wild Bill Clinton, Ted Drive them one way Kennedy, Mc Skeevy of NJ, Anthony (show it all) Weiner.

How about the senators wife who was dying of cancer as he was fathering a child with some bimbo and of course who can forget the reverend Jesse (knock them up) Jackson lecturing Wild Bill about the evils of sex outside of marriage.

Politicians are immune from being brought to task only the rest of the poor population are ever convicted of a crime, unless they are the sacrificial escape goat for the party those without much clout face justice

Ted Kennedy after killing Mary Jo blamed it on the Kennedy curse, and for his punishment he was forced to be reelected to the senate

"I did not have sex with that lady" is a get out of jail defense that has been proven very effective or as Hellery constantly stated during water gate and Clinton foundations donations etc "I can't recollect" and it works like a charm

Many uninformed people call money laundering donations or kick backs for giving away federal funding, but we know better as America is blessed with the best politicians money can buy IMHO

Sex abuse or murders pick which one is worse

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