



Dear CARMA,

A bill involving sex offenders has [become an issue](#) in the Governor's race. Ed Gillespie is right -- Ralph Northam got it wrong. I know, because it was my bill.

In 2016, a campus policeman at my local community college was surprised to find that unbeknownst to him, a registered sex offender was taking classes at the school. As you may know, there are many community college students who are under 18 – including homeschoolers.

Virginia's [sex offender registry](#) lists certain sex offenders and provides information about their crimes and where they live. I thought it was important that parents know if a registered sex offender was working nearby or attending classes with their children. [My bill](#) would have required the sex offender registry to list the current work address and college where a registered sex offender was attending classes.

When this bill came to the Senate, Northam – sitting as Lieutenant Governor – [voted](#) to kill it by sending it back to committee. If it hadn't been for the narrow Republican majority, the bill would have failed. Fortunately, it passed by one vote and was signed into law by Governor McAuliffe.

Ralph Northam voted to keep parents in the dark. I hope you take this into consideration and support Ed Gillespie for Governor on November 7.

Sincerely,

Rob Bell