

I am a retired Police Agent from the Baltimore City Police Department. I am also a friend of Lisa Banks and her Daughter, Lauren Gilmer.

I am writing you today because it has come to my attention that Donald Brunstetter is now eligible for parole after having served one quarter of his original sentence. It should be noted that the honorable Judge Wachs found Mr Brunstetter guilty of: Parental Child Abuse; Second Degree Sexual Offense, Third Degree Sexual Offense; Second Degree Assault; and Unnatural or Perverted Practice. For this he received a sentence of 60 years, with 45 years suspended.

It is my professional and personal opinion that Mr Brunstetter should continue to serve this sentence until complete.

During my career in the Baltimore City Police Department, I was called on to handle a number of different crimes. No crime was more horrendous, more sickening, than the sexual abuse against a child.

- Sexual abuse against a child is never a 'one time only' crime. Criminals such as these target their victims then prey on them over and over again.
- Persons who engage in the sexual abuse of children are not known to recover. In fact, statistics show that the recidivism rate for sexual child abuse at: 10%-15% after five years, 20% after 10 years, and 30%-40% after 20 years. (Source: <http://www.leadershipcouncil.org/1/res/rcd.html> ).
- Persons who engage in the sexual abuse of children learn to manipulate their victims into believing what they are told. These suspects become very capable of lying and deceiving others in order to justify what they do.

This can cause an eventual loss of trust by the victim, as the victim can not tell a friend from an enemy, a confidant from a predator.

Several other facts in this type of crime include, but are not limited to:

- Sexual abuse can produce a long term devastating impact on the victim. Abuse may lead to loss of trust, decreases in self esteem, development of shame, guilt and depression, substance abuse, suicide, promiscuity or prostitution, unfounded fear, and other behavioral issues.

- Most perpetrators don't molest only child. If they are not reported and stopped they will continue to target children.
- Nearly 70% of child sex offenders have between 1 and 9 victims, at least 20% have 10 to 40 victims.
- An average child molester may have as many as 400 victims in his lifetime.

(Source: <http://angelroar.com>).

As a family friend, I can say that Lauren (Mr. Brunstetter's victim) has had her difficulties and I do believe that this is due IN GREAT PART to the horror that Mr Brunstetter put her through.

- Please understand that Lauren was only EIGHT years old when the abuse started. Trust and caring come harder than normal to her.
- On finding out that her assailant is up for parole, she has started to constantly look over her shoulder, asking if he is out yet.
- Fifteen years incarceration may sound like a long sentence, but this is nothing compared to the lifetime of fear and mistrust that Lauren will face.

I therefore respectfully ask you to deny parole to one "Donald Brunstetter," who was convicted in a Maryland Court of Law for the sexual abuse of Lauren Gilmer.