



July 27, 2023

The Honorable Garen Horst
Judge, Superior Court Placer County
101 Maple Street
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Concerns Regarding Release of William Stephenson, a Sexually Violent Predator, in Placer County

Dear Judge Horst,

As members of the California State Legislature that represent Placer County, we are writing to respectfully express our deep dismay regarding the impending decision to release William Stephenson, a Sexually Violent Predator, in Placer County. It is our duty to represent our constituents and bring to your attention the potential risks and implications that are associated with this granting. The safety and well-being of the residents in our community should be of paramount importance, and the release of a Sexually Violent Predator poses a significant threat to public safety, particularly when done so as a transient.

The Sexually Violent Predator Act enables the state to civilly commit mentally-unfit sex offenders into state hospitals after the completion of their prison sentence. While these criminals have already paid their debt to society, the act recognized the need to protect Californian communities and provide these individuals with the mental health and psychiatric treatment needed to prevent recidivism.

Given these standards, we are shocked that Mr. Stephenson would be deemed mentally fit and safe to reenter society. This is a man who has been given several chances to change, yet he has continually chosen to reoffend. Most notably, after being conditionally released in 2014, Mr. Stephenson violated parole bypassing electronic monitoring and was arrested for possession of child pornography.

This new ruling is only made worse with the decision to place him in transient housing. It is our understanding that in the few transient releases in other counties the failure rate was fifty percent. The lack of permanent housing would not only put citizens at risk but would pose significant challenges to monitoring Mr. Stephenson's whereabouts. Mr. Stephenson has already exhibited an ability to bypass electronic monitoring and this should be of great concern.

While we are not supportive of Mr. Stephenson's release in Placer County, we are adamantly opposed to his release to transient status anywhere. We implore you to reconsider his release until suitable permanent housing can be found. Releasing as a transient, without permanent or suitable housing, increases the likeliness he'll violate the conditions of his release, which he has already shown a propensity to do.

On behalf of our concerned constituents, we appreciate your serious consideration of our request. We value your role in our community and look forward to working together to keep Placer County safe.

Sincerely,



ROGER NIELLO
Senator, 6th District



JOE PATTERSON
Assemblyman, 5th District



BRIAN DAHLE
Senator, 1st District



JAMES GALLAGHER
Assemblyman, 3rd District



MEGAN DAHLE
Assemblywoman, 1st District