

JEFF MERKLEY'S FAILING RECORD ON CRIME

Jeff says 'no' to:

PROTECTING INFANTS: In 1999, the Oregon House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a bill to create harsher sentences for Assaulting of an Infant. The bill passed the House by a vote of 58-1; the lone member to oppose the law was Jeff Merkley. (HB 2307, 5/7/99)

PROSECUTING SEX CRIMES: In 2005, Jeff Merkley vote against a law to extend the statute of limitations for sex crimes against minors. For the crimes of Rape, Incest and Sex Abuse of minors, the Oregon Legislature extended the statute of limitations from 6 years to 12 years, or alternatively until the victim reaches the age of 30 (extended from age 24). The bill passed both the House and the Senate with bipartisan support and was signed into law by Governor Kulongoski. Jeff Merkley was part of a small minority of House members to oppose this bill, which passed 42-13 in the House. (HB 2316-B, 8/4/05)

ENDING SEX SLAVERY OF MINORS: In 2007, a bill was introduced in the House to outlaw Sexual Servitude of a Minor. Speaker Jeff Merkley voted to block the legislation, preventing it from receiving a vote on the House floor. (HB 3553, 5/30/07)

KEEPING SEX PREDATORS BEHIND BARS: In 2007, a bill was introduced in the Oregon legislature requiring that all paroled sex offenders reside in communities with 24/7 police coverage. Speaker Jeff Merkley blocked legislation, preventing it from receiving a vote on the House floor. (HB 2861, 5/21/07)

LIFE SENTENCES FOR REPEAT RAPISTS: In 1999, Merkley was one of only 7 legislators to oppose a bill to impose a mandatory life sentence upon a second conviction for certain sex crimes, including Rape, Sodomy and Sex Abuse. (HB 2605, 6/14/99)

STOPPING ARMED GANG-RELATED CRIMES: In 2005, the Oregon House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a bill to impose tougher sentences for use of a weapon during gang-related criminal acts. Jeff Merkley was one of only 15 House members to oppose this bill. (HB 2313, 7/18/05)