

Melissa's Law Dad blasts Eldridge, endorses Dean Cavaretta

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Les Gosule today blasted Senator James Eldridge and endorsed his opponent, Dean Cavaretta for state senator, calling Eldridge "seriously out of touch with most citizens and even his own party."

Eldridge was one of a handful of legislators who voted against Melissa's Law, the state's new habitual offender law, which denies early parole to multiply convicted violent felons. The law was signed Aug. 2 by Governor Patrick following overwhelming legislative approval.

Gosule, who pressed the legislature for 13 years for approval of the measure, was the father of Melissa Gosule who was brutally raped and murdered in 1999 by a 27-time convicted criminal.

"Eldridge sided with criminal rights groups," said Gosule, and "put the rights of criminals ahead of public safety" by his votes against Melissa's Law.

Gosule praised Cavaretta for his support of the bill and his work with other public safety advocates. Cavaretta has also been endorsed by ProtectMassChildren.org, a leading advocacy group against child abuse.