

Your Name
Your Address
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February 20, 2022

Professor Richard L. Revesz, Director
The American Law Institute
4025 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-3099

Re: ALI Model Penal Code on Sexual Assault and Related Offenses

Dear Professor Revesz,

I am in receipt of a copy of the letter written to the American Law Institute by the National Association of Attorneys General dated December 9, 2021, regarding objections to proposed changes recommended by your organization (ALI) for the Model Penal Code. I am reaching out to you, along with the 37 State Attorneys General who added their signature to this letter, with my concerns.

I am particularly concerned with Section II of their letter (**The Proposed Changes to the Model Penal Code Relaxing the Sex Offender Registry Would Pose a Significant Risk to the Public - Especially Children**).

As an advocate who works to educate and reform laws pertaining to sexual offenses, I could not agree more with the ALI's recommendations regarding the Sex Offender Registry. The proposals made by the ALI are based on logic and factual statistics, not fear. The Sex Offender Registry creates barriers to rehabilitation and reintegration and has become a tool for public shaming as there are many misconceptions regarding those convicted of these types of crimes.

- **Bureau of Justice Statistics Fuels Myths About Sex Offenses, Contradicting Its Own New Data** <https://prisonpolicy.org/blog/2019/06/06/sexoffenses>
- **Bad Data: How Government Agencies Distort Data on Sex-Crime Recidivism** <https://sopri-ma.org/soma0517/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Ackerman-Burns-2016-Bad-Data-Distortion-Recidivism-002.pdf>

It is a fact that most children (as well as adults) that are sexually assaulted already know their perpetrators who most often are family members, friends, or acquaintances of the victim. <https://www.sdcca.org/content/preventing/sex-offenders/facts-about-sex-offenders.pdf>

In the case of children, over 90% of child victims are offended by someone close to them and who is trusted by the children. https://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/mobile/Education_MythsAndFacts.aspx

I urge you to read the 2017 Report conducted by the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking (SMART), which falls under the Department of Justice. This report appears to go along with many of the ALI's recommendations. The recommendations in this report are sensible and logical and were "highly encouraged in order to offset the boiler-plate system currently in place". <https://smart.ojp.gov/somapi/initiative-home>.

I implore you to take a second look and see the Registry for what it really is - an outdated tool that has never served the purpose for which it was intended. Offender registries are much larger and more punitive than anticipated in 1996 with the passage of Megan's Law and have not met the goals of greater community safety and deterrence of sexual abuse. <https://www.apmreports.org/story/2016/10/04/sex-offender-registries-wetterling-abduction>

It is time to remove the shaming tool that serves as a modern day "scarlet letter" to those people who are required to register and to their families.

I encourage states to promote further study to understand the value of reforming current federal and state sex offender registry rules.

Along with United Voices for Sex Offense Reform (UV4SOR.org) and The National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (NARSOL), I support the American Law Institute's revised Model Penal Code as it pertains to the management of sexual crime and call upon the full body of ALI to vote to adopt this Code at your upcoming meeting.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further and look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Your Name
Email address