

Your Name
Your Address
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Date

American Law Institute
4025 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Dear ALI Council Members,

As an advocate for sexual offense reform, I am writing to commend you on your approval of most of the revisions to the Model Penal Code for Sexual Assault and Related Offenses. I am pleased that you were able to come to this decision logically and rationally, despite being strongly pressured to vote against the revisions by various organizations, including the U.S. Department of Justice.

These revisions are a major step forward in the campaign for non-discriminatory, constitutional treatment of persons convicted of sexual offenses. Much of the current legislation enacted toward these individuals is purely punitive, with continuing punishment long after they have served their sentences. The Sex Offender Registry is diluted with scores of registrants and has long lost its intended purpose. Your revisions to narrow the registry and reduce the number of offenses considered registerable is a great starting point. Limiting disclosure of information to law-enforcement use only and limiting the registration periods are other important steps that I will be emphasizing when contacting our legislators.

The current restrictions are so stringent that employment and housing are inaccessible to most people forced to register. This, in many cases, leads to MORE crime, as registered individuals are forced into homelessness and become desperate to be able to live their lives in some semblance of normalcy within our society. Other revisions to the Model Penal Code, as it pertains to existing cruel and oppressive registry restrictions would reduce the burden these individuals encounter for employment and housing and make them less vulnerable to vigilantism.

I appreciate the Council's hard work in researching and approving these much-needed revisions. I encourage all your members to unanimously approve the revisions at your annual meeting. My next step is to lobby state legislators to formally adopt these revisions of the penal code which will, hopefully, begin to change the rigid draconian laws currently enforced for individuals with a sexual offense.

Thank you very much for your time and dedication to these extensive, but critical, issues that currently affect millions of families in our communities.

Sincerely,

Your Name