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July 2, 2015

Senator Loni Hancock, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Opposition to SB 54 at reconsideration hearing July 14, 2015.

Dear Committee Member:

The purpose of this letter is to request that you oppose Senate Bill 54 which has been referred to the Public Safety Committee. The bill, if passed, would prohibit more than 100,000 individuals who are required to register as sex offenders ("registered citizens") from living within 2,000 feet of a school, park or place where children gather.

This new law, bad policy arising from bad facts, effects not only me, but my close and associated family... literally dozens of voters for each registrant in the state. In fact, if one assumes that each registered citizen is supported by two sets of parents (i.e. in-laws), the spouse, two adult children, and two siblings... there are ONE MILLION CALIFORNIA VOTERS watching this awful and needless bill. We will remember the actions of our elected officials!

These restrictions, known as "residency restrictions," do not achieve their stated goal, that is, to protect children from sexual assault because they are focused upon people who are unlikely to commit such assaults in places where those assaults are unlikely to occur. That is because it is people who are not registered citizens -- family members, teachers, coaches and clergy -- who actually commit more than 90 percent of sexual assaults upon children in places such as homes, locker rooms and churches according to the California Sex Offender Management Board.

If the state imposes residency restrictions, registered citizens will once again be thwarted from acting as law abiding citizens because most of the 100,000 registered in California would become homeless transients. Most cities, including mine, have no residential living quarters that are not within 2,000 feet of a school, park or place where children gather (the latter being an undefined and open-ended term).

In closing, please know that on March 2, 2015, the California Supreme Court ruled that a similar law was unconstitutional and violated the rights of those on parole. Although the Court didn't specifically speak to those NOT on parole, one would think that their rights are greater than those on parole. This law, by extrapolation, is therefore itself unconstitutional.

Thank you for voting "NO" on SB 54.

Sincerely,

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