

Favorable Response to SB0929 Sex Offender Registration – Local Law Enforcement Units – Registration Locations

Families Advocating Intelligent Registries (FAIR) seeks rational, constitutional sexual offense laws and policies for persons accused and convicted of sexual offenses. We support SB0929.

Under existing law, individuals are required to register periodically by reporting in person to their Local Law Enforcement Unit for as long as they remain on the registry. In general, Tier 1 and Tier 2 registrants are required to re-register every 6 months; for Tier 3 registrants, re-registration is required every three months. Individuals who are homeless must re-register in person <u>weekly</u>.

Many Registered individuals have difficulty with transportation and are required to travel to a single, designated registration facility in their County, which may be miles away from them with no public transportation available. This creates a difficult and, for some, costly process, in particular for those registrants who are homeless and must report to remote registration facilities on a weekly basis. If passed, this bill will ease the burden on many Registered individuals.

Although FAIR believes ultimately that registration serves no useful community safety purpose, proponents argue that knowing where registrants are is useful. If so, providing more locations and easier access to registrants will improve the accuracy of the listings, and reduce noncompliance with registry requirements.

Having fewer people noncompliant is also better for the State's budget, because less money is spent tracking down, arresting, and incarcerating people who for the large part would comply if they were able.

We urge the committee to vote in favor of SB0929.

Sincerely,

Brenda V. Jones, Executive Director Families Advocating Intelligent Registries