

Unfavorable Response to HB310 **Safe Communities Act of 2024**

Families Advocating Intelligent Registries (FAIR) seeks rational, constitutional sexual offense laws and policies for persons accused and convicted of sexual offenses. We are very concerned about the impact of this bill on community safety.

This bill's stated objective is to remove diminution credits from a wider range of sexual offenses. ***The big flaw with this line of thinking is that somehow this is going to make our communities safer.***

If reducing diminution credits would make our communities safer, we would support it. However, this approach is short-sighted – it simply delays an inevitable release with less encouragement to obtain important tools for successful integration back into society.

One stated purpose of the diminution credit process is to encourage positive behaviors, educational advancement, and meaningful participation in treatment and training programs for effective reentry back into the community. This bill removes an important incentive to the individuals to participate in these activities by capping the potential penal benefit to them from their participation.

If a person is dealing with a mental health issue or other circumstances (e.g., lack of formal education or training needed for future employment) that may potentially lend themselves to committing a new offense in the absence of intervention, our communities would be much safer if these persons remain encouraged to participate meaningfully in effective treatment and/or training while serving time, and perhaps obtain specialized supervision restriction or continued treatment once released.

Preventing this cohort of incarcerated individuals from any incentives provided by our department of correction does absolutely nothing to prevent potential reoffense once a person is released. We urge the committee to return an unfavorable vote for HB0310.

Sincerely,



Brenda V. Jones, Executive Director
Families Advocating Intelligent Registries