



RE: Support for HB 1410

Dear Members of the North Dakota House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (NARSOL) North Dakota Advocates to express our strong support for House Bill 1410. This bill represents a crucial step towards aligning North Dakota's sexual offense laws with evidence-based research that has emerged over the past three decades.

NARSOL strongly supports HB1410 for the following reasons:

1. **Evidence-based approach:** HB1410 recognizes that since the creation of sexual offense registries across the nation, numerous studies have consistently shown that these registries do not effectively reduce recidivism or increase public safety as intended.
2. **Recidivism rates:** Research consistently demonstrates 'sex offenders' have much lower recidivism rates than other crime classes. This is contrary to what was believed when the registry was founded.
3. **Ineffectiveness of registries:** Multiple studies have failed to find a significant impact of sex offender registries on recidivism rates.
4. **Potential negative consequences:** Registries have unintended negative consequences, and actually increase recidivism by making it more difficult for offenders to reintegrate into society.
5. **Cost-effectiveness:** Maintaining registries requires significant resources, costing North Dakota millions of dollars annually, with questionable benefits in terms of public safety.
6. **Focus on prevention:** By updating laws based on current research, HB1410 allows for a shift in focus towards more effective prevention strategies. Studies have shown that education and treatment programs can be more effective in reducing sexual offenses than punitive measures alone.
7. **Individualized risk assessment:** HB1410 recognizes the importance of individualized risk assessment rather than blanket policies.

In conclusion, NARSOL strongly urges the committee to support HB1410. This bill represents an opportunity to align North Dakota's sexual offense laws with the wealth of evidence-based research that has emerged over the past three decades. By doing so, North Dakota can lead the way in creating more effective, just, and evidence-based policies that truly enhance public safety while allowing for the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on this important issue.

Sincerely,

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