



RE: Support HB1351, but not Registration Requirements

Dear Members of the North Dakota House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the National Association of Rational Sexual Offense Laws (NARSOL) North Dakota Advocates regarding House Bill No. 1351, which proposes to prohibit sexually explicit deep fake videos and images and amend sexual offender registration requirements.

NARSOL strongly supports the bill's intent to prohibit sexually explicit deep fake videos and images. We recognize the serious harm that can be caused by such content, particularly when it involves minors. The creation and distribution of these materials is a concerning issue that deserves legislative attention and action.

However, we must express our opposition to the creation of a new registerable offense as proposed in this bill. Our position is based on extensive research and evidence regarding the ineffectiveness of sex offender registries. We urge the committee to consider the following points:

- Registries do not effectively deter crime or protect the public.
- Registries have little to no impact on recidivism rates among those required to register.
- Registration requirements create substantial obstacles for individuals attempting to reintegrate into society, often hindering their ability to find housing, employment, and support systems.
- The effects of registration extend beyond the individual, often causing undue hardship on family members, including children of registrants.
- The maintenance and enforcement of registries consume significant law enforcement and administrative resources that could be better utilized for more effective public safety measures.

We believe that the prohibition of sexually explicit deep fake videos and images can be effectively addressed without expanding the scope of the sex offender registry. Alternative approaches, such as diversion programs, education programs, and support for victims, may prove more effective in combating this issue.

NARSOL respectfully requests that the committee reconsider the inclusion of this new offense as a registerable crime.

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

Sincerely,

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