

ALLIANCE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL SEX OFFENSE LAWS
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April 5, 2018

Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Public Safety Committee
State Capitol, Room 2031
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 1143 - OPPOSE

Dear Senator Skinner:

The purpose of this letter is to strongly recommend that you and all members of the Senate Public Safety Committee vote "no" on SB 1143. This bill is currently scheduled to be considered by the Senate Public Safety Committee on April 24, 2018.

As currently written, SB 1143 would reduce public safety as well as invade the privacy of more than 105,000 California citizens who are required to register as sex offenders. In addition, SB 1143 is inconsistent with both the findings of the California Sex Offender Management Board (CASOMB) and academic research. Finally, SB 1143 could overturn an important decision made by the California Supreme Court about two years ago.


SB 1143 would reduce public safety because it could significantly increase the number of homeless sex offenders. There are currently more than 6,000 homeless sex offenders in the State of California and that number would grow if they were required to reveal to potential landlords and homeowners that they are required to register. This requirement would also be a needless invasion of privacy because the status of an individual as a sex offender has no bearing on whether they would be good tenant and/or good home buyer.

SB1143 would be inconsistent with a recent report issued by CASOMB, the legislature's expert on sex offender policy, which concluded that restricting where a sex offender may reside is "likely to have the unintended effect of increasing the likelihood of sexual re-offense." SB 1143 is also inconsistent with findings in recent academic reports such as "Hidden Challenges: Sex Offenders Legislated into Homelessness" published by Jill S. Levenson, Ph.D. in 2016. In that report, Dr. Levenson concluded that limitations on where a sex offender may live often hinder the ability of a sex offender to reintegrate successfully.

Finally, SB 1143 could overturn a recent decision by the California Supreme Court which determined that restrictions regarding where a sex offender lives bears no rational relationship to advancing the state's legitimate goal of protecting children. *In re Taylor*, 60 Cal. 4th 1019, 1042 (2015).

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. For the reasons stated above, the Alliance for Constitutional Sex Offense Laws strongly recommends that you and all members of the Public Safety Committee vote "no" when it considers Senate Bill 1143.

Sincerely,


Janice M. Bellucci
Executive Director