

**ALLIANCE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL SEX OFFENSE LAWS**  
**1215 K Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Sacramento, CA 95814**  
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March 13, 2019

Chairman Reginald Jones-Sawyer  
Vice Chairman Tom Lackey  
Assembly Public Safety Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 884 – OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Jones-Sawyer, Vice Chairman Lackey and Committee Members:

We are writing to you in strong opposition to Assembly Bill (AB) 884 which is scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Public Safety Committee on March 26, 2019. As currently written, AB 884 would gut the Tiered Registry Law which is to take effect in 2021 by moving more than 40,000 individuals from Tier 2 (20 years registration) to Tier 3 (lifetime registration).

The legislature, by a wide margin in both houses, passed the Tiered Registry Law (SB 384) in fall 2017. Soon thereafter the Governor signed the bill into law on October 6, 2017. As you are aware, the Tiered Registry Law was sponsored by the Los Angeles District Attorney and supported by a broad coalition including the ACLU, California Police Chiefs Association, Returning Home Foundation, Association of Deputy District Attorneys, California Public Defenders Association and victims' rights organizations.

A fundamental reason that the coalition supported the Tiered Registry Law was the belief that the state's lifetime registry does not increase public safety. That reason is supported by the California Sex Offender Management Board (CASOMB), the legislature's preeminent expert on sex offender policy. Specifically, CASOMB has determined that the state's lifetime registry is "hugely burdensome and ineffective."

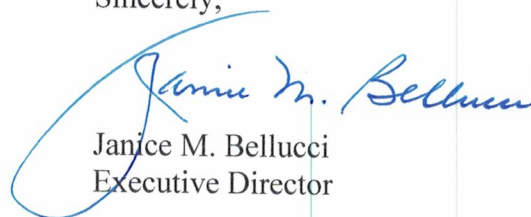
In addition to CASOMB's determination, the coalition based its decision to support the Tiered Registry Law upon academic research such as a 2016 report by Jill S. Levenson, Ph.D., which concluded that "[d]espite the fact that registrations make people feel safer, the data indicate that their actual effectiveness in preventing sexual recidivism is actually quite weak." The report also noted that "[m]any scholars have agreed [] that the accumulation of empirical evidence strongly suggests that the fiscal and social costs of lifetime registries outweigh their benefits."

Further, the coalition noted the views of survivors of sexual abuse, including the organizations that represent them, who opposed lifetime registration for all registrants because it decreases, not increases public safety. That is because individuals required to register for a lifetime are often cut off from their families and are under- or unemployed. In addition, a growing number of those individuals lack shelter because they are homeless.

The fact is that the number of homeless registrants has grown to more than 6,000 individuals, according to the CASOMB. Because they are homeless, these individuals are required to register as transients on a monthly basis. This requirement, in turn, drains limited law enforcement resources especially in densely populated counties such as Los Angeles where more than 15,000 people are required to register as sex offenders.

For the reasons outlined above we strongly urge you and all the members of the Assembly Public Safety Committee to vote "NO" on AB 884. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janice M. Bellucci". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning of the first name.

Janice M. Bellucci  
Executive Director