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SB1194: An Act Relieving Certain Registrants of the Sex Offense Registry

Passed Senate 22-14 – House Calendar #514

This is a narrowly focused, commonsense bill with bipartisan support. It addresses only those who were unjustly put on the Registry outside of their judicial process. None have committed another sexual offense in more than 25 years.

If you're on the Fence about how to vote, what's keeping you from 'YES'?

“The Registry seems to be working well enough, any changes could be risky.”

The science on this is clear: the **Registry isn't creating any benefit to public safety** by keeping these 800+ individuals on it, people who are today no more a threat than any other member of their community. What is also clear is that for these men and women, and their families, the Registry generates tremendous harm. Listing these individuals on the registry creates a baseless fear between neighbors.

“It may have been long ago, but they did terrible crimes and aren't worthy of a second chance.”

The individuals that are registered are not the only ones being harmed by the Registry. Families share in the collateral damage as they are also affected by the lost wages, housing scarcity, and health problems experienced by those on the Registry. They are deemed guilty by association, and merely having a loved one on the Registry can threaten their own employment— not to mention social rejection and bullying. Again, the harm caused by the Registry gains nothing for our communities.

“This could get me in trouble with my constituents; it can wait for another year.”

It may feel easier to push it off to another year, but action is needed now! These people and their spouses are entering their senior years, and face growing restrictions to getting the care they need. We are on the cusp of a health care crisis because of both public and private policies that restrict access to health care and housing for this group. We need your leadership on this now.

Ready to learn more?

A study on recidivism risk: <https://onestandardofjustice.org/Hanson-et-al-2018-Not-always-a-sex-offender.pdf>

Public Testimony Summary: <https://youtu.be/NUIcuX9Jx9g>