

**Oregon Action Committee, Inc.**  
**Repeal the Oregon Sex Offender Registry**

**Why the Sex Offender Registry Must be Completely Repealed**

Repeal Oregon Revised Statutes:

- **181.585 - 590** (Predatory Sex Offender Notice Procedure)
- **181.592 - 599** (Sex Offender Registration)

The Oregon Sex Offender Registration (SOR) laws are a complete fraud and hoax perpetrated against the citizens of Oregon by Oregon's legislatures of the past. Although the goal of Oregon SOR laws was supposedly designed to bring the benefit of improved public safety to the citizens in our state, Oregon's SOR laws have failed miserably in that pursuit because there is a mismatch between the stated goal of reducing sex crimes and the actual facts showing that most sex crimes are committed by people not on the Sex Offender Registry. Today, Oregon's sex offender related statutes reflect the continuing focus on falsely perceived and falsely assumed attention toward future sex crime possibilities of people already listed on the SOR list. Instead, Oregon legislators need to get a grip of the facts showing that the problem of sex offending (the vast majority of which are committed by people NOT on the SOR list) are not strongly connected to Registered Sex Offenders on the Sex Offender Registry (people with very low-recidivism rates and responsible for only about 3.5% of new sex crimes).

In this legislative year of 2013, the various leaderships in the Oregon House and Senate can begin to shift away from the many fear-based, often one-sided, and fact-less sex offender public safety laws enacted in past election cycles and begin the work of repealing sex offender laws that are not up to the task of providing Oregonians with true public safety in the sex crimes area. Oregon's political leaders will want to come into line with the growing sense that new laws that educate parents about the true nature of sex abuse of children starts by looking in the family itself and not to strangers listed in the Sex Offender Registry (SOR). Increasingly, Oregonians want a re-focus on true democratic freedoms and legal rights for all citizens where facts and evidence, expert testimony from all sides, and constitutionality will benefit everybody without exclusion of anybody.

Below is a summary list of the main points about why we must repeal the Sex Offender Registry (SOR) laws in Oregon because:

1. **SOR laws HARM the truth by promoting false assumptions about Registered Sex Offenders.** Public policy in Oregon should be based on relevant facts, expert testimony and logical reasoning. However, SOR laws do NOT reflect these basic well-known facts that so often REFUTE Oregon's SOR law foundations:
  - a. Most (about 96.5%) sex offenses are committed by people who are NOT on the SOR list.
  - b. Most (roughly 91%) of child sex abuses are committed by people who already have close access to the child victim today (step-dads, older siblings, babysitters, church staff, next door neighbor, etc.)
  - c. Actual evidence from many federal and state studies show that people who are required to register as "sex offenders" have low recidivism (re-offense) rates (2.8% to 3.5% over various three year frames) in contrast to other comparative criminal recidivistic percentages that range from 35% to 57% or higher.
2. **SOR laws HARM the expectations for public safety** in that Oregon citizens want to stop sexual abuse in the community. Parents do not want to have their attention misdirected toward the SOR distraction list because they are increasingly aware that most sex abuse is committed by somebody already known to the victim (91% of past cases). So why does the State of Oregon advertise the names of those on the SOR list as strangers who are likely to harm them? Citizens in general will be very unhappy when they discover that the Oregon legislature has not been fully honest with them by misdirecting their attention to the SOR list strangers instead of being told that the vast majority (95%) of likely new sex crimes will be committed by people NOT on the SOR list.

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3. **SOR laws HARM the Oregon and US Constitutions** because violating the basic legal rights for one group of citizens is tantamount to what could be the future violations of constitutional rights for everybody else. This has frequently been shown in history where the slippery slope of allowing the government to persecute one group endangers all citizens in the future. Oregon's SOR law violates due process, equal protection under the law, double-jeopardy, and cruel and unusual punishment clauses of the US Constitution.
4. **SOR laws HARM innocent persons and entities** who share a common "registered" address.
  - a. **Family and friends** of those living with a Registered Sex Offender (RSO). People who share the living quarters with an RSO may receive the same shaming and humiliation as that intended for the RSO himself. Neighbors will pull their children back from playing with children who live with the RSO. The RSO's children may receive shaming at school because daddy is on the SOR list.
  - b. **Employers** who risk hiring an RSO face the wrath of existing employees, customers and suppliers if found out. The employer's address is also listed on the SOR and the likelihood of the RSO holding onto a job is near zero. The employer may face loss of profits for the fact that customers go elsewhere to avoid an employed RSO.
  - c. **Educational facilities** that enroll Registered Sex Offenders. Public school, colleges and universities also share in the risk that an RSO who attends there will drive away other potential students. The school's reputation gets put on the line as "not a safe place" to get an education. Often times, the RSO is forced to leave through intimidation by administration or the students themselves.
5. **SOR laws HARM tax revenues from unemployed RSOs** because they are less likely to be employed and also end up costing the state for their qualifying for public assistance programs (if any) to survive. There is something like 18,000+ people on the Oregon Sex Offender Registry today and of that there might be 10,000 adult sex offenders. What is the value of this lost employment tax revenue from these (most likely) unemployed RSO? The SOR laws discourage employers from hiring Registered Sex Offenders because the business could be listed on the SOR list.
6. **SOR laws HARM the concept of democratic equality under the law for everybody**. Oregon's reputation as a society of equals under the law has given up since the adoption of the Sex Offender Registry (SOR) laws in the last twenty years. SOR laws have created two classes of citizenship: **Regular status citizens** for most people who are not on the SOR list and enjoy all of their constitutional rights and freedoms under the law. Then there are the **degraded status citizens** (such as RSOs) where the normal legal rights and freedoms are limited; **RSOs do not have the freedom to travel widely depending on their Sex Offender Registration cycle and how far they can likely go because of the threat of breaking Oregon's "failure to register" laws.** If an RSO gets himself out of range (lack of money or time) of getting back in time to officially register as Oregon law provides then he probably has committed a new crime and will be held accountable. Also, the Oregon RSO may be travelling in other states but still run afoul of other local SOR laws that have different rules for registration requirements and end up being prosecuted for "failure to register" there.
7. **SOR laws HARM the language of criminal justice** by using a current tense term of "sex offender" that embeds a permanent meaning to anybody who has ever been convicted of a sex crime. The adage that "once a sex offender always a sex offender" has been debunked years ago but persists because of old myths that perpetuate the beliefs about sex offenders: that "they can't be cured and they're all the same". Yet the federal statistics showing low recidivism rates do not allow for Registered Sex Offenders to become former sex offenders because Oregon sex offender statutes hold them in a perpetual "now" – as if a crime were committed yesterday. If the law's SOR laws language referred to convicted sex offenders as former sex offenders then the SOR laws would simply become an absurdity like that of what it actually is when federal crimes statistics are applied to these laws.