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HB 2218

CHIEF SPONSERS: Representative Whisnant, Senator Gelser

**REGULAR SPONSERS: Representative Barreto, Doherty, McLain,
Senator Knopp, Taylor**

SECTION 1. ORS 163A.215 is amended to read:

163A.215. (1)(a) **A notifying agency or a supervising agency shall release, upon request, any information *that may be necessary to protect the public concerning sex offenders who reside in a specific area or concerning a specific sex offender.***

HB-2218 is a dangerous public notification law to pass. It will put registrants and their families in extreme danger. There have been many vigilante murders from people that found addresses on the internet and came to a person's house and killed the husband and wife. The last dozen years we have had vigilante murders in Washington State, Maine and South Carolina. These states have publicly listed names and addresses of those on the registry. Those that were murdered had been living ordinary good life's and had not harmed anyone.

Vigilantes are born out of media coverage constantly repeating the same crimes over and over. That builds unnecessary fear, disgust and rage. It gives these people and the public the understanding that these crimes happen constantly when, in fact they are extremely rare and are consider black swan events.

This also removes rational critical thought. I have added to your system empirical studies on the huge impact that media has had on criminal justice legislation over the last 30 years. We need to get back to rational, practicaly legislation that protects everyone and go back to restorative justice system that is so much better than the barbaric constant punishing system we now have in place.

The facts that registrants have extremely low re-offense rates and a large multi-state study showed that the re-offense rates are not only low for sex offenders at the lower Tiers, but there was no difference in the higher Tiers classified in determining who would re-offend.

All groups of registered sex offenders had extremely low re-offense rates. Those rates are so low as to be at least as low or lower than the public. This shows how irrational the registry has always been.

This study proved that it did not matter what the previous sex offense was in prior years in regards to re-offending and committing another sex crime. All categories were extremely low.

The results of this research give question to what could possibly be pushing the ever-expanding legislation on those that have already paid their debt to society and have extremely low re-offense stats across the board.

This multi-state study on what results would be gained with a tier program were compared over the years to see if there was any difference in re-offending.

They compared these states in one large study and it showed that the Tier system was absolutely of no benefit. This program created more state expense that could have been more useful in other ways in the state.

The Static 99 test score and Tier program show it is not effective because across the board all sex offenders have a low re-offense rates and are very unlikely to re-offend no matter what their crime was previously. The only issue that was of any significant in the study was those with personality disorders such as psychopathic tendencies that could act out again. This did not affect the fact huge numbers in the study do not have those rare personality disorders.

I think that all citizens and not just some citizens need to feel safe and that the states job is to legislate to not put some citizens in danger while only giving imaginary safety to the another group.

Some registrants have families and their children will suffer more if neighbors find out that they have a registrant in the home. The children could be outcasts from the other children. They may suffer taunting and bullying.

Our neighbors could harass us and we could be unsafe walking down the street.

Someone could come to our home and shoot us because they found our address in the listing. People that see the RSO's address see all of them as dangerous and the same. They see them as what is portrayed on television and in motion pictures.

We do not have a balance in justice because biases are permitted and cherished in sex crime cases. Evidence and vast numbers of empirical and scientific research has been ignored and only emotional illogical and political motivation has expanded the sex offender legislation.

The victim is given a SACRED place and the accused is given a DEMON status.

This create the foundation of the injustice and lack of 6th Amendment rights lost to the overreaching powers of the prosecutor, measure 11 crimes, and the power of a coerced plea agreement arrangement.

The television broadcasting crime shows have damaged criminal justice system by creating such bias as to make it almost impossible to find a jury that can listen to evidence in a sex offense trial. Those accused of a sex offense are considered guilty by accusation.

I have suffered because of these laws personally as my daughters and granddaughters watch crime television. They have not talked to me in 8 years.

I have suffered emotional grief from the loss of my family and been to several counselors. I am again seeing a doctor over this bill and the stress it has put on me and the worry of a public notification. There is no greater pain than losing your children or grandchildren and especially on manufactured fears.

Please consider this bill as a dangerous and unfair, unnecessary bill that could create the possibility of harm coming to Oregonians just trying to live a normal life and part of the community we all share.

- Nationally our crime rate is very low with numbers comparable to 1961. We have far more people in this country too.

- We are very safe, but the perception does not match the facts. We need to remove the stress and burden of fear from the public on stranger danger and educate on the reality of how safe we all are in the communities we live in.

*The research mentioned in my presentation is included in the documents added into your system. I hope you will each take the time to review those studies and consider the possibility of being the first state in nation to remove the registry requirement we now have for all those on the registry.

They are unnecessary and are a continued punishment to those that have already been punished for their crimes.

To go against the dominant thinking of your friends, of most of the people you see every day, is perhaps the most difficult act of heroism you can perform.

- Theodore H. White