



COALITION
FOR THE
HOMELESS

Coalition for the Homeless
louhomeless.org

1300 S 4th St. Suite 250
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Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

I am writing to express our concern and opposition regarding the proposed Senate Bill 80. We believe that there are unintended consequences that will impact our member agencies in Louisville as well as Homeless services across the state. We ask that you table this vital discussion to learn more about homeless service providers' work to house people on the sex offender registry while promoting community safety.

People who exit incarceration and are required to register face unique circumstances that make this population twice as likely to end up homeless. Research shows that housing instability increases the risk of criminal recidivism. Caseworkers and agencies work diligently to get this population into housing because we know it is in the communities best interest to get them stably housed and off the street. Unfortunately, current practices and policies regarding housing make this work harder and inadvertently increase the risk of harm to the public. SB 80 will add to these obstacles in the long run.

Attached to this letter is a map of Jefferson County highlighting every school, daycare, and park and the 1000-foot radius around each property. Presently, people on the registry are prohibited from living within these No-Go zones. SB 80 will prohibit anyone on the register from "loitering" without a valid reason within these No-Go zones. We fear our clients will be unnecessarily charged with offending this law because of our lack of shelter in Louisville. Ultimately, SB 80 and current laws make our member agencies work harder to carry out.

We all want safe communities. However, we don't believe Senate Bill 80 will promote safety but rather drive this population to the periphery, make compliance with the registry harder, and not promote public safety. Instead, we think this body should discuss how we can create better access to treatment programs and how to increase compliance within the homeless community.

Sincerely,

George Eklund
Education and Advocacy Director



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