

**CONTACT: Niki Delson, LCSW (707) 677-3181 [niki@delko.net](mailto:niki@delko.net)(link sends e-mail)**

**February 7, 2006**

## **CALIFORNIA COALITION ON SEXUAL OFFENDING OPPOSES THE “JESSICA’S LAW INITIATIVE”**

The California Coalition on Sexual Offending (CCOSO) a multidisciplinary organization which includes mental health professionals, attorneys, probation and parole officers, group home staff and administrators, polygraph examiners, law enforcement officers, and victim advocates has sent a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger opposing the Sexual Predator Punishment and Control Act – Jessica’s Law Initiative.

AS CURRENTLY WRITTEN, the initiative is seriously flawed and probably will not accomplish its intended goal of making the public safe from sexual predators. Specifically CCOSO opposes

- The 2000 foot residency restriction on all California Sex offenders and allowing local communities to create their own sets of restrictions. This measure will almost certainly result in the same chaotic situations and unintended, undesired consequences as are being seen in Iowa where initial proponents of such a measure have now, after experiencing the impact of its implementation, courageously changed their minds about its usefulness. Furthermore this restriction does not address the fact that the overwhelming majority of child victims are assaulted in their own homes or in the home of the offender – not school yards, parks, playgrounds etc.
- The requirement that all California Sex offenders be placed on lifetime GPS monitoring will increase the burden on law enforcement, has proven prohibitively expensive and according to the developers of the technology, is not intended to prevent criminal behavior. Furthermore, GPS technology will most likely be ineffective in deterring the majority of child molestations which occur in the home of the offender or the victim

Asking the general public to make an informed decision about a bill that is over 30 pages in length and involves many complex areas of criminal justice administration is an inadequate approach to effective public policy and really reducing the risk posed by sexual offenders living California communities.

The California Coalition On Sexual Offending vigorously supports community safety and is committed to stopping child sexual abuse. Coalition members are ready to lend time and expertise to broaden the discussion on how to achieve this aim. The Coalition urges the governor and legislators to come together and provide well-informed leadership in crafting (and be the first state to craft) non-politicized, evidence-based legislation to make the people of California truly safer (safe) from sexual assault.

Note: A complete copy of the actual CCOSO memo sent to Governor Schwarzenegger on Monday, February 6 is available for at:  [Letter from CCOSO to Governor C](#)

Read more about why Residency Restrictions will not prevent the majority of child molestations:



["Many Paths to Prevention"](#), A public education article from Stop It Now Foundation



["Statement on Sex Offender Residency Restrictions In Iowa"](#), Published by the Iowa County Attorneys Association (January, 2006)



["Sex Offender Residency Restrictions: A Report To The Florida Legislature"](#), by Jill Levenson, Ph.D.

For further information, please contact:

Niki Delson, LCSW

[niki@delko.net](mailto:niki@delko.net)(link sends e-mail)

707-677-3181