



SANTA BARBARA RAPE CRISIS CENTER
CENTRO CONTRA LA VIOLACION SEXUAL

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

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VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 83 (“JESSICA’S LAW”)!

SBRCC and CALCASA urge you to vote NO on Proposition 83, or Jessica’s law, on the November ballot.

SBRCC’s opposition to this initiative is based on two primary concerns:

1. Residency restrictions for sex offenders **don’t make communities safer**. Sex offenders will respond to residency restrictions in 2 ways:
 - They’ll go underground—it is easier to stop registering than to comply by relocating.
 - Large scale migration to rural areas where there is a deficit of resources for monitoring them.
2. GPS monitoring of all sex offenders **will not prevent sexual assaults**.
 - GPS is *not prevention*. GPS units show the location of an individual but not what they are doing or whom they are near.
 - GPS is *not supervision*. GPS is a tool that can provide useful information in limited application. It does not take the place of effective supervision.
 - Costs of **lifetime supervision** will be passed directly to local law enforcement agencies when offenders leave probation/parole.

Remember:

- The vast majority of sex offenders are never reported, let alone tried and convicted.
- Children and youth are far more at risk of sexual abuse from adults they know, often love and trust. 90% of child victims knew their perpetrator, yet this initiative is generally designed to address situations in which the sex offender is presumed to be a stranger to the victim. (Greenfield, Lawrence A., 1997. Sex Offenses and Offenders: An Analysis of Data on Rape and Sexual Assault. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice)
- Juvenile victims are 77% more likely to be assaulted **in their own home** than in the areas covered by Prop. 83. (Snyder, H.N. 2000. Sexual Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement: Victim, Incident and Offender Characteristics.

Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice)

- Sex offenders in a stable environment (stable housing and social support) are less likely to commit new sex offenses compared to those offenders who lack such stability. Residency requirements drastically reduce this stability, which increases the risk of re-offense. (Managing Sex Offenders in the Community: A National Overview, Lane Council of Governments, Eugene, Oregon, 2003)

Vote No on Proposition 83 Jessica's Law

California will face a mass-migration of sex offenders to rural areas, decreasing their social stability and increasing their risk of recidivism, coupled with a dramatic increase in the number of sex offenders who are driven underground where law enforcement will be unable to monitor them.