**THE ILLINOIS SEX OFFENSES & SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT**

**DECEMBER 2017**

Excerpts from the Illinois Task Force Final Report:

It is important to note that the Task Force examined the most current and scientifically rigorous research available on sex offender policies and practices and heard testimony from renowned experts in the field. Much of the research reviewed was collected and summarized on behalf of the U.S. Department of Justice, Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking Office’s Sex Offender Management, Assessment, and Planning Initiative *(SMART)*.

• While release planning and evidence-based treatment are key components of successful behavior change, the greatest predictor of risk reduction is the length of time a person lives in the community without re-offending. Individuals convicted of sexual offenses reach the desistance threshold—meaning the likelihood of reoffending is low—at 10 years of offense-free community living.

• While public opinion surveys show that the public favors a freely available sex offender registry and law enforcement considers it a valuable investigatory tool, research has not established that registries have any effect on the sexual crime rate, and most studies find no reduction in sexual recidivism due to registries.

• To effectively identify high risk people, registries should use tiers to reflect actual risk of sexual re-offending (informed by the risk-assessment conducted post-conviction). The different tiers should differentiate lengths of time on the public registry.

 • To ensure resources can be focused on people who are at high risk of re-offending, individuals on lower tiers—i.e., those who pose less risk—should be automatically removed from the public registry after a set duration.

 • Registrants should be allowed to petition to be removed from the public registry if they meet certain criteria, such as having crossed the desistence threshold. These criteria should be created by SOMB and be informed by current scientific knowledge.

• Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB) should be an independent agency that is staffed and directed by an expert with a clinical background specializing in sex offender assessment and treatment *and* use research to inform the creation of policy as well as to evaluate how policies are implemented and their impact.