Dear Reporter,

I am enclosing a recent letter concerning municipal sex offender residency restrictions (SORR’s) sent to Florida legislators by the Reentry Coalitions in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties.

The following information is noted in this letter:

* The State of Florida is one of a small handful of states that mandates *all* persons required to register do so for their entire lifetime.
* When the Florida registry was enacted in 1997, there were eight qualifying offenses that required registration. Today there are more than twenty.
* With new registrants being added to the list continuously and zero attrition, this number will continue to grow rapidly.
* The number of persons required to register has more than doubled in 15 years, the number of homeless sex offenders has tripled in less than half that time.
* The residency restrictions only prevent where registrants can reside at night (between 10PM and 6AM), not where they can go during the day. Common sense also suggests that children are at home sleeping between 10PM and 6AM, not in playgrounds.
* Numerous studies, including the U.S. Department of Justice, have demonstrated that residency restrictions for registrants should not be viewed as a viable strategy for protecting communities.
* In Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties, there are approximately 1,000 transient people on the registry – people who do not have a permanent place to live and are basically homeless, mostly because of the residency restrictions.

Sincerely,