Dear Sheriff ,

The first-of-its-kind meta-analysis study of 25 years of findings of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification (SORN) evaluations and their effects on recidivism was published this past year. Eighteen research articles including 474,640 formerly incarcerated individuals were used. ***(Journal of Experimental Criminology,* “The effectiveness of Sex Offender Registration and Notification: A meta-analysis of 25 years of findings”, Kristen M. Zgoba and Meghan M. Mitchell, September 2021)**

**Conclusions** from the study:

“SORN policies have no effect on sexual and non-sexual crime commission over their period of existence, thereby failing to deliver on the intention of increasing public safety. Given the vast support that exists for the laws, their lack of efficacy will likely create a false sense of security for the public and may ultimately create more harm than benefit.”

The study also concluded that those place on the registry may experience an increased risk of re-offending as they are treated as social outcasts, causing loss of jobs and housing. A job, place to live, and family/community support are all necessary to achieve a successful reintegration back into society as a law-abiding citizen. The registry as we know it today greatly hinders this process.

“As previous research has consistently found that clinical and actuarial *risk* assessments are better predictors of recidivism risk than state legislation, public safety could likely be maximized by focusing limited resources on the highest-risk individuals, rather than utilizing a one size fits all law. (Andrews et al., 2011; Zgoba et al., 2018)”

“SORN policies may prove to be more hurtful than helpful is a necessary conversation that does not automatically signal society has gone soft on crime. Allocating resources to the highest-risk individuals will likely allow treatment providers and law enforcement to focus their efforts on those who need it the most, not on the diffusion of all individuals. It is time that we work as an empirically informed community, unhindered by emotion, to find a solution to reining the horse back into the barn.”

It is time to remove the thousands of individuals on the Florida Sex Offense Registry who are not sexually re-offending.

I have included additional studies on the negative effects that intensive treatments can have on low-risk offenders.

Sincerely,