



**Florida Action Committee, Inc.**  
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November 8, 2019

Florida Department of Education  
Office of the Commissioner  
Turlington Building, Suite 1514  
325 West Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

SENT VIA EMAIL  
[Commissioner@fldoe.org](mailto:Commissioner@fldoe.org)

**RE: CHILDREN OF PARENTS WHO ARE REQUIRED  
TO REGISTER AS SEXUAL OFFENDERS**

Dear Commissioner:

The Florida Action Committee (FAC) is a not-for-profit, public safety advocacy organization. Our membership is comprised of over two thousand members, including persons required to register as sex offenders, their family members, treatment providers and other stakeholders. Our mission is to make communities safer by advocating for laws and policies based on empirical evidence and best practices.

Several of our members have contacted us recently to let our organization know that parents are being denied access to their children's school events because of their status on the registry. Some are being told by school administrators that Florida law is what prohibits their presence.

Upon information and belief, the only law that governs presence of these individuals at a school is Florida Statute § 856.022, the relevant portion of which is copied and pasted below:

*(b) It is unlawful for a person described in subsection (1) to knowingly be present in any child care facility or school containing any students in prekindergarten through grade 12 or on real property comprising any child care facility or school containing any students in prekindergarten through grade 12 when the child care facility or school is in operation, if such person fails to:*

*1. Provide written notification of his or her intent to be present to the school board, superintendent, principal, or child care facility owner;*

2. *Notify the child care facility owner or the school principal's office when he or she arrives and departs the child care facility or school; or*
3. *Remain under direct supervision of a school official or designated chaperone when present in the vicinity of children. As used in this paragraph, the term "school official" means a principal, a school resource officer, a teacher or any other employee of the school, the superintendent of schools, a member of the school board, a child care facility owner, or a child care provider.*

It is our belief that there is no State law that precludes a parent who is required to register from attending a parent-teacher conference, graduation, school play or other events in their child's life, so long as they meet the conditions set forth in the Statute. For that reason, these parents are being wrongfully banned.

The reality is; according to the US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics, 95% of sexual offenses in society are committed by someone *not* on the registry. Particularly in schools, a student is far more likely to be sexually assaulted by their teacher or coach than someone on the registry. The other reality is; banning a parent from their children's academic milestones only serves to punish the student.

I am writing in the hope that we can work together to ensure the administrators of each school in Florida encourage the safe and supervised involvement of all parents in their children's education.

Sincerely,

s/

Gail Colletta, President  
Florida Action Committee, Inc.