

Protecting our Elderly

Good morning/afternoon. I'm (your name), a Florida resident. I'm asking our law makers to:

- Exempt sex offender residency restrictions for patients at long-term care facilities.
- Remove the elderly from the sex offender registry who have not sexually re-offended – in many cases for decades.

Seniors face health and physical challenges, limited income, loss of mobility, and eventually may need assisted living/nursing home care.

These challenges are painfully amplified for the elderly who are on the sex offender registry. Most states provide a streamlined process for removal from the registry, for all but the most dangerous offenses. Not so with Florida.

In Florida, every year harsher laws and ordinances are passed that increasingly harm these weary, beaten-down, frightened elderly people. For them, including veterans, assisted living and nursing home care isn't possible in Florida. Elderly people with dementia or who are bedridden can't get to the Sheriff's Office for required check-ins. Instead, family or friends help the elderly comply with registry requirements because they literally can't complete the documents themselves.

Academic evidence-based research has repeatedly found that the registry has not served to improve public safety, but instead has harmed tens of thousands of Florida registrants and their families creating generational poverty – and deprived the elderly of medical care and safe housing.

Recently, an elderly Floridian with dementia was put in prison for 2 years and then on the registry as Florida statutes don't allow dementia to be considered by the courts. He could not remember his offense, had no comprehension of the registry and its multitude of requirements. His wife nursed him at home - and complied with the registry requirements on his behalf until his death.

Do your elderly friends and family who have dementia act like they once did? Are your elderly friends with mobility restrictions a threat? Can you imagine a more sadistic societal response to our elderly citizens than prison and the rigors of the registry? Our elderly Floridians need help, not abuse.

Thank you.

Protecting our Elderly – 90 seconds

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Protecting our Elderly 1 minute

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