

## Ending Homelessness

Good morning/afternoon. I'm (your name), a Florida resident and an advocate for ending homelessness.

An action that would ease homelessness is to:

- Require municipalities and counties to uniformly follow the sex offender residency restrictions in the Florida Statutes.

Many of the homeless actually have places to live - if not for some of Florida's more extreme sex offender residency restrictions. They have homes with family who care for them, but they can't "live" there.

Why? Because in some jurisdictions, people convicted of a sex offense may not live within 2,500 feet of certain areas between the hours of 10 pm and 6 am. Therefore, they are homeless at night and go home during the day to care for their families and to shower for work.

These people have paid their debt to society and want to rebuild their lives, support their families and their communities. However, the Florida registry causes a lifetime of repetitive cruelty by strangers, continual fear, ostracization, and difficulty finding housing for 33,000 people and their families.

Statewide, 6% of people with past sex offenses are homeless compared to 1% of the general population. However, in some counties (Miami-Dade and Broward), more than 25% of sex offenders are homeless due to extreme residency restrictions. Today, a person who gives a Playboy magazine to their 15-year-old son could end up homeless and punished for life by our web of Draconian laws. Lifelong punishment - even though there is irrefutable evidence that the registry has no effect on public safety. The measurable effects of the registry are increased homelessness and generational poverty.

The state's residency restrictions prevent registrants from living within 1,000 feet of certain areas. However, across the state numerous municipalities and counties have enacted their own residency restrictions - the more extreme, the higher the homelessness. It is chaos that is difficult for both law enforcement and registrants to navigate.

Following the state statutes uniformly can get these Floridians back home.

Thank you.

## **Ending Homelessness 90 seconds**

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## Ending Homelessness 1 minute

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