**The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act   
and the registration of individuals who have sexually offended in Michigan**

**SORNA’s classification system is flawed and ineffective**

* SORNA’s offense-based classification system treats all ex-sexual offenders the same.
* Offense-based systems do not accurately classify a person’s risk to reoffend.
* SORNA’s tiers overestimate risk and wrongly call all sexual offenders a high risk.
* SORNA focuses on stranger-danger, which is the least common form of sexual assault.
* Michigan’s sexual offenders are among the least likely ex-offenders to recidivate in any way.
* Sexual offenses comprised only 3.1% of all Michigan recidivist offenses from 1986-1999 and remain low today (per the Citizens Alliance on Prisons and Public Spending).
* Recidivism rates are so low among ex-sexual offenders that registries do not lower them further.

**Registries and residential restrictions create unintended negative consequences**

* Because Michigan’s registry is so large – the third highest per-capita rate of any state – it is hard for police to know which registrants need the most intense monitoring.
* Law enforcement agencies must spend limited resources to monitor all persons on Michigan’s registry including low-risk offenders.
* Public registries do not accurately warn community members about each individual’s risk.
* Individuals on public registries face barriers to safely reentering their communities – homelessness, joblessness, physical and verbal harassment, social isolation, public shaming, anxiety, and depression; inability to receive medical and mental health services, attend classes or religious programs, or participate in family and community events in restricted areas.
* Teens on registries are at higher risk to commit suicide than teens who have committed crimes but are not on registries.
* Women on registries are more likely to be sexually harassed.

**Michigan residents deserve better**

* Move Michigan’s registry to a risk-based classification system.
* Assess each individual’s unique risk to reoffend.
* Customize sanctions based on each person’s risk to reoffend.
* Make registry information about low-risk offenders available only to law enforcement agencies.
* Focus public attention on the most at-risk ex-sexual offenders.
* Eliminate one-size-fits-all registration timelines.
* Eliminate one-size-fits-all residential restrictions.
* Require government programs designed to help reintegrate ex-offenders into society to serve ex-sexual offenders.
* Encourage youth-serving organizations and other institutions to implement policies that promote prevention.
* Focus more resources on educating the public about how to recognize the warning signs that can result in sexual abuse, and how to safely intervene when necessary.