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February 1, 2024

Rachel M. Arndt  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Passport Services  
SA-17A, 4th Floor  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Ms. Arndt,

Our organizations represent the nearly one million Americans who are required to register due to a past conviction for a sexual offense or they are organizations in sympathy with the plight of their fellow Americans.

We are writing to you regarding the troubling number of cases of passport revocations affecting our members, their families, their employees and other dependents. We believe that there is a simple way to mitigate some of the harm these revocations have caused, and we urge you to consider doing so, as follows.

As you know, passports may be revoked for a number of reasons, but all of these reasons stem from the actions (or inactions, as in not paying federal income tax) of the individual passport holder. This is the first time that we are aware of that an entire class of U.S. citizens faces having a passport revoked through no specific action on their part, aside from having on their record a historic conviction, which may date back many decades.

Revocation is especially frightening for travelers overseas. Their passport may be the only proof of citizenship they possess. Revoking it places them in jeopardy in their host countries and, in our view, hinders the ability of the State Department to fulfill its primary mission of protecting *all* American citizens.

There is a ready solution. The language of the International Megan's Law states that the State Department *shall* include a unique identifier in the passport of a covered individual but that it *may* revoke a passport without this identifier.

Therefore, we urge you to cease revoking the passports of these covered individuals. Passports are routinely amended, pages are added, and so on, without the need for revocation or the issuance of an entirely new passport. Adding or removing the unique identifier could be done in the same way with much less harm.

Thank you for your attention.

The National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (NARSOL) -- sponsor

Oklahoma Voices, Inc.

Human Rights Defense Center (HRDC)

Arizonans for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (AZRSOL)

West Virginians for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (WVRSOL)

Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants - Sex Offenders Restored Through Treatment (CURE-SORT)

Ohio for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (OH RSOL)

Sex Offense Policy Reform Initiative (SOPRI)

South Carolinians for Rational Sex Offense Laws (SCRSOL)

Indiana Voices

Women Against Registry (W.A.R.)

Michigan Citizens for Justice

Citizens for Criminal Justice Reform (CCJR-NH)

Baystate Reentry Network (BRN)

Decriminalize Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

United Voices for Sex Offense Reform (UV4SOR)

PA Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (PARSOL)

Texas Voices for Reason and Justice (TVRJ, Inc)

Families Advocating Intelligent Registries (FAIR)

North Carolina for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (NCRSOL)

Iowans Unafraid (IU)

Florida Action Committee, Inc. (FAC)

One Standard of Justice (OSJ)

Liberty and Justice Coalition (LBJ)

Arkansas Time After Time (ATAT)

Colorado Coalition for Sexual Offense Restoration (CSOR)

Delaware Advocates for the Reform of Sexual Offense Laws (DARSOL)

Restore Georgia

Illinois Voices (IV)

Minnesota for Our Rights

Oregon Voices (OV)

Safer Virginia

Oklahoma RSOL (OKRSOL)