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Dear Cañon City officials:

Safety has to be a preeminent concern today. Students, teachers and support staff have an absolute right to safety. This also extends to wherever citizens frequent in their communities, at any location. We want to be safe. We deserve to be safe.

In the news report, [Cañon City Council mulls new sex offender residency restrictions](#), a suggested proposal would impose new sex offender residency restrictions to the municipal code. The restriction suggested by the Cañon City Police Department and drafted by the city attorneys would prohibit certain offenders from establishing residency within 1,000 feet of a school, day care center, library or park with playground equipment and other locations.

What we know now is that [residency restrictions do not result in higher safety](#). Residency restriction are [ineffective and have unintended consequences](#). These consequences include lack of housing opportunities for those on the registry, interference with successful re-entry into society, and destruction of families by requiring some to move out of their homes. This approach has been adopted before in the [errant belief that people who have a geographical closeness have a higher level of offense](#). That is not accurate. What we do know is:

- *["Stranger Danger"](#) is rare. The danger comes from coaches, family friends, clergy, or family members.*
- *[Approximately 60% of offences](#) take place in the victims' homes or the homes of someone they know.*
- *There is [no evidence](#) that [residency restrictions result in reduced offenses](#). They serve as barriers as mentioned above.*
- *[Georgia, New Jersey, California](#) and most recently [Michigan](#) have all had residency restrictions overturned or sharply curtailed in court cases ruling them as [unconstitutional and punishment](#).*
- *People on the registry have the [lowest rates](#) of recidivism. At an average 4% rate, it is the lowest of any class of offence. Contrast this to DUI recidivism rates of 25-31%. Should those who have DUIs in their past move 1000 feet from any place that sells or serves alcohol? Of course not. Access does will not necessarily result in future crimes.*

We ask that the Canon City police, the city attorneys and council table this proposal. It will cost time, money, and not result in any increased safety. It has been overturned many times and

will continue to create more harm than good.

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NARSOL advocates for laws based on facts and evidence and for policies that support the successful rehabilitation, restoration, and reintegration of law abiding, former sex offenders into society as the path to a safer society