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RIGHTS GROUP SOUNDS SLARM OVER ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY *NARSOL calls on legislature to defeat Halloween costume bill*

Raleigh, North Carolina | January 28, 2019—The National Assc. for Rational Sexual Offense Laws ([NARSOL](https://narsol.org)) condemns the Arkansas General Assembly for proposing and passing legislation which is shown by a multitude of studies and experts to be based on pure myth.

The Senate Judiciary Committee in the state of Arkansas has just approved [a bill](#) prohibiting a portion of the state’s registered sex offenders from distributing candy or other items to minors not their own children as part of a Halloween-related event. The bill would also prohibit them from wearing costumes or masks at a Halloween-related event with minors.

This legislation is scheduled for a vote on Jan. 29 in the House Judiciary Committee, where it will almost certainly pass.

Representatives of NARSOL’S Arkansas affiliate organization [Arkansas Time After Time](#) attended the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing and gave fact-based testimony against the bill. They and NARSOL demand to know why legislation is being passed in Arkansas that not only has absolutely no merit but will also cause harm to families and to the parent-child relationship.

Even though the bill’s provisions exempt parents who are on the registry from giving candy to their own children, it will make criminals of those who participate in their own children’s handing out candy to other trick-or-treaters or who participate by wearing masks or costumes in attendance with their own children at school or neighborhood carnivals or Halloween events or at their own homes if other children are present.

Additional and serious harm is inherent in this bill. It perpetuates the “stranger-danger” myth of child sexual offending and therefore focuses attention away from the realities of how child sexual offense occurs.

“We know,” states NARSOL’S Executive Director Brenda Jones, “with absolute certainty that virtually all child molestation occurs in homes and other private places familiar to the victims and is committed by those known and trusted by the victims, those who are connected to the victims in their everyday lives. It does not occur by strangers putting on masks and molesting random children in public places.”

Jones continues, “Senator Trent Garner brought this bill forward. He is responsible for

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RATIONAL SEXUAL OFFENSE LAWS

Fighting to restore dignity & constitutional rights to millions.

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the integrity of it. Why would a senator introduce a bill based on myth, a bill without a shred of evidence in support of it, a bill that is not needed and will do nothing to protect children from sexual harm?”

NARSOL calls on the Arkansas legislature to reject [AR SB10](#) as cosmetic, feel-good law.

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NARSOL opposes dehumanizing registries and works to eliminate discrimination, banishment, and vigilantism against persons accused or convicted of sexual offenses through the use of impact litigation, public education, legislative advocacy, and media outreach in order to reintegrate and reconcile affected individuals and restore their constitutional rights.