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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE . . .**

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## **NARSOL to Patch: Stop lying to parents!**

***Only serious increase in danger to kids on Halloween is death by vehicle***

**Raleigh, North Carolina** -- Patch Publications continues to publish information in many of its outlets that creates a false and fabricated connection between Halloween and sexual offending and between Halloween and increased risk of danger to children.

[In a previous press release](#) (September 20, 2020), the National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws ([NARSOL](#)) thoroughly documented Patch Publications' campaign of misinformation and called on Patch to end the harmful practice of printing names and addresses of local people who are on a sexual offense registry, which, even without the Halloween connection, is [contradicted by research and best practice](#). NARSOL called on Patch to stop lying to its readers by promoting a false connection between Halloween and a totally baseless increase of child predation by people listed on sex offense registries. This simply does not happen.

It is signed by over 200 people, including those in the criminal justice field as well as academic researchers; treatment providers, including the Association for Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA); attorneys; and many others.

[This statement from ATSA](#), a nonprofit organization for treatment providers, researchers and educators, victims' rights advocates, law enforcement and court officials, and other stakeholders, summarizes the findings from a plethora of studies and sources: "A heightened risk of being sexually abused is NOT one of the dangers children face at Halloween. The simple fact is that there are no significant increases in sex crimes on or around Halloween. There is no 'Halloween effect.' There is no change in the rate of sexual crimes by non-family members during Halloween. That was true both before and after communities enacted laws to restrict the activities of registrants during Halloween." (Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, 2019)

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RATIONAL SEXUAL OFFENSE LAWS**

**Fighting to restore dignity & constitutional rights to millions.**

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Nevertheless, Patch continues, in some of the states in which it has a presence, to push this false narrative in spite of NARSOL sending informational emails to Patch's top executives and many of its writers and editors. The results are seen in ledes and in the articles themselves.

New York: "Patch Halloween Safety Map: Sex Offenders in our Town." New Hampshire: "This map can be used to ensure that your children do not trick-or-treat on Halloween at homes where sex offenders live." Illinois: "2020 Safety Map: Before kids go out trick or treating on Halloween, fall is a good time to take an inventory of who is living in your neighborhood." Florida: "Prior to Halloween, area police officers, sheriff's deputies and probation officers routinely call on registered sex predators and offenders in their jurisdictions to remind them of the laws concerning contact with children." Pennsylvania: "2020 Sex Offender Safety Map: With Halloween and trick or treating on the horizon, find out where registered sex offenders live in your neighborhood."

They continue to ignore the number one most serious -- and actual -- risk to children at Halloween.

"Children are three times more likely to be fatally injured by a car on the [Halloween] holiday, and the risk grows to 10 times for kids 4 to 8." ([Washington Post, 2019](#))

"Where," asks NARSOL's communications director Sandy Rozek, "Where are the warnings in every Patch about this actual danger on Halloween to children? Why aren't they printing articles cautioning parents about this, reminding them to be sure costumes are reflective, to be sure they have talks with their children about traffic safety?"

"Why aren't articles being printed directed at law enforcement, reinforcing to them the importance of increasing traffic patrol and foot patrol during trick-or-treat hours and in high trick-or-treat areas? Why isn't law enforcement being asked if they are increasing DUI checkpoints Halloween evening? These are the things that will actually save children's lives and save children from being injured in pedestrian-auto accidents."

# # #

*NARSOL is the nation's largest civil rights organization advocating on behalf of registered citizens and their families. 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.*

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