



**RALEIGH,
NORTH CAROLINA**

For immediate release . . .

NCRSOL to bring lawsuit against new sex offender statute

Raleigh, North Carolina—The newly enacted sex offender premises statute is in effect as of September 1, 2016. Adopted by the N.C. General Assembly in response to federal Judge James A. Beaty's decisions holding most of the previous statute unconstitutional in December, 2015, and again in April, 2016, the new statute has been described as more narrowly drawn by its chief architect, Republican Sen. "Buck" Newton of Wilson.

Sections of the new statute which create a 300 foot buffer zone around public areas where children frequently congregate, and where children are also present, will only apply to sex offenders convicted of an Article 7B offense, or any offense against a minor victim.

"Buck Newton's clever language conceals the fact that nearly 95% of registered sex offenders in North Carolina will continue to be treated like third-class citizens and deprived of their right to go and come as they please to a long list of public spaces throughout the entire state," stated Robin Vanderwall, president of North Carolina RSOL.

"Churches, libraries, recreational parks, even places as common as McDonalds and Wal-Mart will now be off limits to citizens who have already done their time, paid for their crimes, and just want to be treated the same as every other citizen in the state," he continued.

Vanderwall cited a recent unanimous decision by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals as hopeful. The federal appeals court invalidated all of Michigan's amendments to its sex offender registration requirement as punitive and therefore in violation of protections against ex post facto applications of newly enacted laws.

"The Court finally pushed the magic button! They called a spade and spade. And they said, 'Wait a minute Michigan—nobody ever said it was okay to restrict where all these people can live, work, relax, and recreate.' It was a huge victory for a growing movement against these terribly unconstitutional deprivations of liberty," Vanderwall stated.

The Sixth Circuit was the first federal appeals court to pronounce such a sweeping indictment of residency and proximity restrictions putatively aimed at preventing sex offenders from living or being within a certain distance of any location where children are likely to be gathered.

"Buck and his cronies in Raleigh have had their way with us for long enough," said Vanderwall, "and we're not going to fall into line like a bunch of beat dogs. We are citizens, for goodness sakes. Yes, we have all gotten into some sort of trouble related to sexual morality, but that's not a justification for denying us the full and fair protection of the Bill of Rights!"

Vanderwall's group, NCRSOL, has already hired an attorney and is in the preliminary stages of preparing a lawsuit.

According to its website, North Carolina RSOL was organized and incorporated in early 2016 when several registrants and their supporters formed to create a more visible presence throughout the state after being urged on by reports of resurgent legislative efforts to enact tougher laws against North Carolina's more than 12,000 registered sex offenders.

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