

# Memo

**To:** Sheldon Gen, San Francisco State University Professor  
**From:** Keith DeMartini, San Francisco State University Graduate Student  
**Date:** December 17, 2007  
**Re:** "Pro Argument" for Registered Sex Offenders not being allowed to live near schools, libraries, and other places where children congregate.

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## Description of the Problem:

People who sexually offend others cause major problems for communities. Many people, mostly women and children, may live in fear of being sexually assaulted. The social activity around schools, libraries, and other buildings that facilitate social gathering may decline if sexual predators are roaming the streets. And recidivism rates are still too high for sexual assault repeat offenses. Social policies must be implemented to ensure communities are safe from sexual offenders and that the offenders receive the proper social services necessary to live a healthy life.

## Support for "Pro" Position:

1. Safety concerns with Sex Offenders living near Schools & Libraries
  - a. Sex offenders are dangerous and many of them target children.
  - b. Research has shown that as much as half of all sexual offenses in the United States are committed by pedophiles.
  - c. As a society, we have the responsibility to protect our children, who may not always know right from wrong, against these violent acts.
  - d. Results of a survey conducted in 2000 showed that 93% of child sexual abuse victims knew their abuser. This could be a coach, a teacher, a friend, or an acquaintance.
  - e. Many sexually abused children do not speak of their sexual abuse experiences for a variety of reasons: ashamed of the act they just partook in, offender has threatened to kill or hurt someone they love if they told, wanting to protect the offender, has actually grown feelings for the offender, fear of being responsible for the acts, and fear of being punished.
  - f. Many cases of sexual abuse go unreported due to victim fear, shame, and loyalty to the abuser. So documented reports of sexual assault underestimate the extent of the problem. Many more children may be sexually assaulted than research suggests.
2. Restricting areas where Sex Offenders can live will reduce the number of sexual offenses
  - a. The likelihood of child sexual offenses occurring will reduce if the offenders do not live in communities where children congregate, such as schools and libraries.
  - b. Although the rate of recidivism for sexual offenders is lower than all other offenses (43% vs. 68%), this still causes a major social problem for high child populated areas.
  - c. Research has shown that treatment is not very successful because it focuses on symptoms, not on curing the problem. Sex offenders need services focused on finding housing near effective social services and job placement services.
  - d. Until treatment becomes more effective and rates of recidivism reduce, children must be protected from people with a high likelihood of committing the same crime.
  - e. Many of the social services that sex offenders require are in more centrally located areas of a city, not necessary in close proximity to schools and libraries.