



Prevent Child Abuse California

4700 Roseville Road, Suite 102
North Highlands, CA 95660
(916) 244-1900
(916) 244-1950 fax
1-800-CHILDREN

The Honorable Judy Chu
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

January 13, 2006

Re: AB 1015: Creation of the California Sex Offender Management Board

Dear Assemblymember Judy Chu,

AB 1015 offers the legislature an opportunity to support a sensible, necessary step in preventing sex offense recidivism: coordinating actions and disseminating research among organizations which deal with sexual offenders. We applaud your work to support AB 632 (2005), now AB 1015, and the creation of California's Sex Offender Management Board and encourage the rest of the legislature to join you.

Prevent Child Abuse California (PCA CA) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to prevent the abuse and neglect of California's children by building community resources, enhancing public awareness, developing and coordinating prevention programs, and facilitating advocacy activities. PCA CA, a chartered member of Prevent Child Abuse America, has a statewide network of child abuse prevention experts and advocates in every California county. Interagency collaboration is a strategy that PCA CA often uses and widely endorses as an approach to prevent child abuse, and we are glad to see this approach being applied to the prevention of child sexual abuse.

Many state agencies and community based organizations interact with sex offenders in a variety of ways or otherwise have relevant expertise, including the Department of Corrections, Department of Health and Human Services, Attorney General and Board of Behavioral Sciences. Legislation in the 2004-05 legislative year changed how a variety of state agencies handle sex offenders. However, no single agency coordinating recent changes or ongoing efforts in sex offender management yet exists in California. The CSOMB is an opportunity to fill that gap.

The California Sex Offender Management Board is a logical means for coordinating ongoing efforts to reduce sexual offense recidivism. Because state laws govern the exchange of information between relevant agencies, a state-level organization is appropriate. The California Sex Offender Management Board provides an ongoing means for: A) coordinating many organizations' activities to increase efficiency and reduce overlap; B) setting statewide priorities and attainable goals and maintaining focus on them; C) the exchange of expertise and information and establishment of best practices; D) involvement of a variety of stakeholders and E) change in response to new conditions or information. Of course, this bill will place some time and economic burden on organizations with other responsibilities. Note, however, that these very organizations, overall, support this bill.

At the national level, the Center for Sex Offender Management, which grew out of recommendations of experts in the field, has been doing similar work for nearly a decade. Aspects of this center could serve as a model for the board that would be created by AB 1015. This board may draw positive attention to California because of its groundbreaking nature, even placing our state as a national leader in this arena.

In short, AB 1015 is an opportunity which we encourage the legislature to take. We thank you for supporting it.

Sincerely,

Sheila Anderson
President & CEO

Scott Moak
Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs

Prevent Child Abuse California

Prevent Child Abuse California

SENT TO ALL OF:

The Honorable Judy Chu
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 94249-0049

The Honorable Mark Leno
State Capitol, Room 3146
Sacramento, CA 94249-0013