



OPENDOORS

**OPENDOORS STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF ACLU CHALLENGE TO SEX
OFFENDER RESIDENCY RESTRICTION**

Sol Rodriguez, executive director of OpenDoors, a non-profit that helps former offenders reintegrate back into the community, released the following statement in support of the ACLU of Rhode Island's lawsuit challenging the state's residency restriction law for Level 3 sex offenders:

“At OpenDoors we are confronted everyday with the difficulties that convicted sex offenders experience, in obtaining housing, after they are released from prison. There is no proof that the new RI residency law for level 3 sex offenders; barring them from living 1, 000 feet from a school or daycare center, makes the community safer.

“People affected are being forced out of their apartments; some are homeowners, have families, are sick, disabled, and some live in nursing homes. Some are family caretakers. They have served the sentence imposed for their crimes and are known to law enforcement due to sex offender registry laws. This law will further destabilize this population, increasing the number of already homeless sex offenders living in Rhode Island and has the potential of decreasing public safety.

“The State should seriously re-consider the intent of this new residency restriction. To further ostracize formerly incarcerated persons, who have served their time, rather than work towards reintegration, is not in the best interests of the State, the victims, the ex-offenders, nor potentially vulnerable children.”

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