



The Faces of SOSEN

by Lynn Gilmore

Recently, Mary Duval, CEO of SOSEN, went to Washington, DC, to attend the US House Judiciary Committee's hearing on the Adam Walsh Act: *The Reauthorization of the Adam Walsh Act*. The hearing was chaired by Representative Sensenbrenner.

To watch the video of the hearing, go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unbCL09VJT&feature=youtu.be>

Mary had hopes of being given an opportunity to speak out against the AWA. The hearing is 1:42 hours long and each representative and congressman that was given an opportunity to speak was only given 5 minutes each. Congressman Bobby Scott gave an insightful and clear testimony against the act, exposing how the law would cost states millions of dollars to implement. Others followed but no advocates for reform were permitted to speak, including Mary. Security was very tight.

Following the hearing, Mary was interviewed by CNN for around 90 minutes.

On February 21, 2011, after her trip to DC, Mary was the guest speaker on the American Reality Check radio show, in which she talked about her attendance to the hearing and meeting Mark Lunsford, child advocate for the Jessica Lunsford Act.

SOSEN has received several calls from those who listened to the show who are not registered offenders. People are becoming aware that the AWA is taking money and resources from our country's schools and people are beginning to recognize the AWA may honestly be a civil rights issue.

Also recently, Mary traveled to Nevada to appear on a show called *Nevada Newsmakers* and was interviewed by Sam Shad. Carl Post, Former Deputy Sheriff and Correctional Officer and Alina Kilpatrick, Elko Public Defenders Office, were also interviewed on the show. The show highlighted all of the problems with the registry and exposed the costs with managing sex offenders under current laws.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OP0IsCxRmWM&feature=youtu.be> or call (775) 857-2244 for a DVD copy of the interview for \$30.00.

Little by little and slowly but surely, SOSEN is becoming more widely known as our faces get out there. *Many* of our members have been very busy attending legislative sessions in their own states this year, speaking out against bills targeting sex offenders. Many have made a difference and as a result of all their hard work, many bills *have* been rejected!

Our message to you is clear: We CAN make a difference, and we ARE making a difference! ■

"He May As Well Be Registered"

By Mary Duval

As a parent of a youth who was forced to register as an aggravated, violent offender for life due to having consensual sex with his underage girlfriend, these words floored me when spoken by child advocate Mark Lunsford upon our first meeting at the Adam Walsh Reauthorization Hearings in Washington, DC.

"He may as well be registered?" Mark was speaking of his son, Joshua, who in 2007, was charged with two felonies under Ohio law for "touching" his underage girlfriend. Later, the case was dropped to one misdemeanor and young Joshua, 18, was sentenced to ten days in jail, one year probation and no registration on the state registry.

Continued on Page 2



Now folks, we all feel differently on this case but, as a mother, I stand firm that Joshua should not have to register, even though I truly understand those who think he should after all the *other* youths across this country and in Ohio with the same offenses who are not receiving the same punishment.

When Mark said this to me I was shocked. We had been discussing Joshua and Mark said Josh cannot get a job because of his charge. Now, after some thought, I thought of all of us who live with this scarlet letter and I realized that this statement clearly shows that Mark has no clue what the registry involves or how it destroys an individual's life and the lives of their families.

Let's face it: If Joshua had to register, he would be required to live by Ohio residency laws; he would never be allowed to attend any of his future children's school events or activities; he would have U.S. Marshalls at his door verifying his residence while possibly harassing his family; he would be public enemy number 1 and labeled by Megan's Law as a "monster"; each year new legislation could be applied retroactively and new laws would apply to Josh. These are potentially just a few of the things which would affect Mark's son.

A reporter from CNN just happened to catch his comment and asked me point blank if I thought Mark was being serious. Honestly, I wasn't sure. Joshua received a misdemeanor plea, so why this affects his job opportunities, I'm not sure. But one thing is for darn sure, Mark Lunsford is clueless on how his son being on a registry would destroy his son, and to make such a flippant statement in my opinion, shows his ignorance.

I can name hundreds of parents across this country today who would give their life to save their child *from the registry*. Many who were younger than Joshua was at the time of his offense.

Obviously, Mark understands this is what is deemed as a "Romeo" issue yet proclaims his Jessica's law has a Romeo clause. I'm not aware of this and if it is true then why are there so many young boys going down for young puppy love every day?

Mark makes a lot of statements regarding our youth, yet does nothing to help the parents whose sons are being destroyed. Why?

As a parent of a child once registered, I think that Mark should live in our family's shoes for a month and experience the destruction this registry causes for himself *before* he goes out and speaks on something he has too little knowledge of. ■

"They Don't Work."—Why Kansas SB 39 Should Be Rejected

by Derek W. Logue

Senator Rob Olson introduced SB 39, a law that bans registered persons from living within 2000 feet of prohibited places like schools or daycares (removing the moratorium Kansas passed against residency laws), bans registrants from participating in Halloween activities, and marking registrants' driver's licenses with the term "aggravated sex offender." Kansas seems to have already forgotten the lessons it has learned from its own recent decisions and the examples of its neighbors.

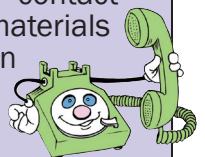
In 2005, Iowa was among the first to implement harsh 2000 foot residency restrictions, which made roughly 99% of Iowa off-limits to anyone on the public registry. In the year following the passage of the residency restriction, the number of registrants who absconded, gave false addresses, or who became transient rose by 350% in just one year. Registered persons clustered in the remaining 1% of legal residences were living in tents, under bridges, or dilapidated hotels if they were the lucky ones. Surrounding states passed residency restrictions in fear a flood of registrants would move to their respective states. During this time, there was absolutely no increase in sex crimes in the year after the law took effect; in fact, the number of sex crimes actually increased by 12 cases in the year following enforcement of the law (only one offense involved a "stranger"). The Iowa State Attorney's Association (a group of county prosecutors), county sheriffs, and even victim's groups requested repeal of the residency law. Iowa finally repealed residency laws for most registrants in 2009 in the midst of the many negative consequences of the residency restriction.

After seeing the issues caused by the debacle in Iowa, Kansas not only rejected residency laws, it passed a moratorium to prevent cities and counties in joining the social panic of surrounding states. When KTKA 49 asked Kansas Corrections Secretary Roger Werholz why Kansas, he simply replied, "They

Continued on Page 3

SOSEN RESOURCE CENTER

Our new toll free number is now available for the public, media and lawmakers to contact us for educational materials and information on sex offender laws and issues. Call **800-773-4319.**



Membership Dues

We request that our members pay membership dues to help offset the rising expenses of running the SOSEN organization. We appreciate support from our members just as our members appreciate the support they receive from SOSEN.

A Supporting Membership is \$25.00 per year which includes a membership for your family, as well as one of SOSEN's pink triangle pins. Supporting Members will need to provide a mailing address so that we can send your pin.

The General Membership rate is only \$10.00 per year, and is offered for those on a tighter budget.

You may send your dues, either by check or via PayPal to sosentreasurer@gmail.com.

If you mail a check, be assured that only Mary, SOSEN's COO, and our Treasurer will see your true name, and that your name will never be linked to the internet site. If you do pay by check, please include your screen name on the SOSEN forum (if you have one), so that credit can be correctly applied.

SOSEN will never deny membership to anyone for lack of funds. If you can't afford the General Membership dues, just email ceo@sosen.us or call 1-877-594-2228 and say you need a waiver. No further questions will be asked, because we understand how hard it is for registered former sex offenders and their families to make ends meet.

WEEKLY EVENTS

American's Reality Check
(ARC) Talk Radio
www.arctalkradio.com

Three nights a week!

Monday 6:00 p.m. Eastern
Wednesday 8:00 p.m. Eastern
Friday 6:00 p.m. Eastern

Dial: 724-444-7444

Code: 29521#

all shows available for archive:
<http://www.talkshoe.com/talkshoe/web/talkCast.jsp?masterId=29521&cmd=tc>

Continued from Page 2

don't work¹." Werholz pointed at the Iowa debacle, which was backed by research from Minnesota and Colorado, which found no correlation between residency restrictions and sex crimes. On the contrary, research has shown instability in life, such as housing difficulties, can increase the likelihood of recidivism. As Werholz put it, "They don't work, and they actually make things more dangerous rather than make them safer."

As the Kansas legislature reviews SB 39, it needs to remember why that moratorium was passed in the first place. South Florida also had Iowa's example before passing the laws which led to the Julia Tuttle Causeway camp, also called "Bookville" after Ron Book, the powerful lobbyist who pushed for the nation's toughest residency laws in the nation. The population of Bookville swelled to over a hundred residents, who built makeshift tents, bought generators, and burned refuse by the bay. Florida Department of Corrections had no choice to release people to live under the JTC Bridge. The camp became an international embarrassment for Miami and the state of Florida. Does Kansas truly want to repeat the sad history of Iowa and Miami?

Weholz stated, "What we want to do is not so much what makes us feel safer, but what makes us safer." Do any of the provisions in Kansas SB 39 truly make us safer? A look at the rest of the provisions of SB 39 suggests this law is based more upon feelings than facts.

There has never been a documented case of a convicted sex offender raping and murdering a child on Halloween. A study by Jill Levenson² found no increased risk of sexual abuse on Halloween, and suggested the bans on handing out candy or forcing registrants to sit in jail during this period had no impact on sex crime rates that day. Halloween laws are not based upon what makes us safer, but what makes us feel safer.

Does a scarlet letter on a driver's license truly make us safer? Police already run ID checks during routine stops. ID card marks will only draw negative attention in situations unrelated to child safety, such as obtaining a bank account or writing a check at the hardware store. In rejecting a similar scarlet letter provision, in this case, a sign in the front yard, the Kansas Court of Appeals found the imposed signage conditions would work against any rehabilitation while on probation because wherever the registrant would be, he would be "branded³."

The Kansas legislature is tasked to find what makes us truly safer as a society. Kansas SB 39 fails to deliver, so the legislature should reject SB 39. ■

1 http://www.ktka.com/news/2008/may/19/do_residency_restrictions_sex_offenders_work/

2 <http://sax.sagepub.com/content/21/3/363.abstract>

3 <http://www.kscourts.org/cases-and-opinions/opinions/ctapp/2009/20090424/99445.htm>



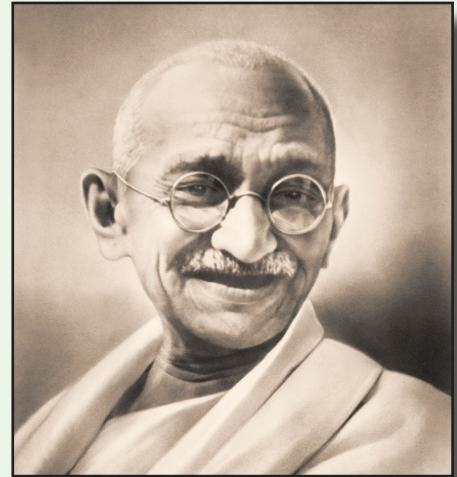
SOSEN is on Facebook!

SOSEN has a new Facebook page and we invite you to "like" our page if you or someone you know has a Facebook account. We know that many registered offenders are not permitted to use Facebook, but that doesn't mean your loved ones can't!

The name of our page is officially titled: S.O.S.E.N. (Sex Offender Solutions & Education Network). The page is maintained by SOSEN staff member and author, Lynn Gilmore, who is a non-registered offender, so it's perfectly legal! ■

**A SMALL BODY OF DETERMINED
SPIRITS FIRED BY AN
UNQUENCHABLE FAITH IN THEIR
MISSION CAN ALTER THE COURSE
OF HISTORY.**

~ MOHANDAS GANDHI



SOSEN

**IS WORKING TO MAINTAIN THE CONSTITUTIONAL
RIGHTS FOR ALL OF OUR CITIZENS**



PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE