

Dear Representatives Fowler Arthur and Ferguson,

My name is Stephanie Mack and I am a community member who will be negatively impacted by the law you are introducing. In 2014 we moved to Loveland, with our young children, from Indianapolis, IN. For 6 months we explored neighborhoods in the Cincinnati area, earnestly looking for the safest town to raise our family. Loveland checked all our boxes: great schools, welcoming community members, and safe neighborhoods. Purchasing a home on Meadowknoll Dr., in the backyard of Loveland High School, gave us the comfort of knowing we would not live close to sex offenders due to Ohio Revised Code 2950.034 governing sex offenders cannot reside within 1000 feet of a school.

We have three short term rental properties in our neighborhood, as of today. There has been drug use, late night disturbances, and property trespassing committed by renters of these properties. The amazing men and women in our local township government have been working tirelessly to develop code to protect our children and neighborhoods from renters who do not undergo background checks. Your law will undo all of their work. Limiting local government authority over short term rentals is taking power away from the authority who work so hard to maintain a peaceful, safe environment. I'm sure you can appreciate the necessity of maintaining and empowering small government, as these are the people who know the community members and what is best.

For several years our children have enjoyed the neighborhood by riding their bikes in the summertime, walking the family dog, and running between houses with other neighborhood children. Our family has enjoyed many barbecues with other neighborhood families, including large celebrations for the 4th of July and Labor Day weekend. In short, we know who lives up and down our street - in every home. So it follows, with short term rental homes in our neighborhood we do not know, on any given day, who is at the property. While we are not naïve to the fact that terrible incidents can occur anywhere, the short term rental home is inviting strangers to reside in our neighborhood on a rolling basis. This is stripping our children of the safe, predictable environment we have worked hard to provide.

I ask, is there a method by which the owners of short term rental properties are conducting background checks to ensure sex offenders are not renting their property? If not, will the owners be held accountable for a sex offender or drug users renting a property within 1000 feet of a school? When making your decision I implore you to consider these questions, the safety of our children, and the comfort parents are given from the knowledge of who is residing in their neighborhood.

Please do not move forward with the introduction of this bill.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Mack  
10149 Meadowknoll Dr.  
Loveland, OH 45140