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Board of Directors

June 27, 2017

Paul Shannon
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Mr. Mark Zuckerberg
Chief Executive Officer

Robin Vanderwall
Vice Chair

Facebook
1601 Willow Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Brenda V. Jones
Exec. Dir.

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg,

Sandy Rozek
Secretary

The National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (NARSOL) advocates for laws based on facts and evidence and for policies that support the successful rehabilitation, and reintegration of law abiding former sex offenders into society as the path to safer communities.

Larry A. Neely
Treasurer

Two recent events prompted me to contact you: The first was the U.S. Supreme Court's unanimous decision in *Packingham v. North Carolina* which occurred on June 19.

Jon Cordeiro
Dolley Madison
Peter Marana

After praising God on Facebook for relief from a traffic ticket, Mr. Packingham was charged and convicted under a North Carolina law making it a felony for convicted sex offenders to use social-networking sites that allow minors to create and maintain accounts.

The second was the unveiling of your company's new mission statement: "***To give people the power to build community and bring the world closer together.***"

Although the *Packingham* decision now makes it legal for registered sex offenders in North Carolina and throughout the nation to access and use social networking websites, Facebook's own terms of service (TOS) continues to prohibit **nearly a million** American citizens from access to your global forum.

It is our understanding that upon learning that a registered sex offender has created an account on Facebook, it is common practice for Facebook to terminate that account.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RATIONAL SEXUAL OFFENSE LAWS

Fighting to restore dignity & constitutional rights to millions

*NARSOL is a 501(c)(4) for IRS purposes. Contributions made to RSOL are NOT tax deductible.
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Mr. Mark Zuckerberg
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While I understand that your company is concerned about keeping its users safe, you must surely know that competent research does not demonstrate that a blanket policy prohibiting access to all registered sex offenders is effective.

In fact, research by the DOJ and others shows that the vast majority of people convicted of a sex offense will never commit another. Most sex offenses are committed against people who are already well known to the perpetrator, and approximately 95% of sexual crime is committed by individuals who are not already registered as sex offenders.

On behalf of the more than 800,000 Americans (number from NCMEC) who populate United States sex offender registries—as well as millions of affected family members—I am requesting that you reconsider the scope of your Facebook policy banning sex offenders from accessing Facebook’s ubiquitous forum for speech and expression.

I have recently learned that Facebook is using artificial intelligence to help eliminate unsafe things such as “hate speech.” Could not the exact same technology be used to help prevent the use of Facebook for any sexually exploitative purposes? This would be far more effective in creating a safer online environment.

Registered citizens already face insurmountable hurdles when it comes to reintegrating into society. Our nation's policies make it difficult for them to find housing, to secure jobs, and to associate with their families. And with Facebook's present policy of exclusion, your company is actively contributing to the further alienation of this already marginalized population of American citizens.

In closing, please consider the reasoning of Justice Kennedy who wrote the majority opinion in *Packingham*:

In sum, to foreclose access to social media altogether is to prevent the user from engaging in the legitimate exercise of First Amendment rights. It is unsettling to suggest that only a limited set of websites can be used even by persons who have completed their sentences. Even convicted criminals—and in some instances especially convicted criminals—might receive legitimate benefits from these means for access to the world of ideas, in particular if they seek to reform and to pursue lawful and rewarding lives.

I would be happy to discuss this request with you or with anyone at Facebook. I can be reached at 888.997.7765, ext 701.

Sincerely,



Brenda Jones
Executive Director