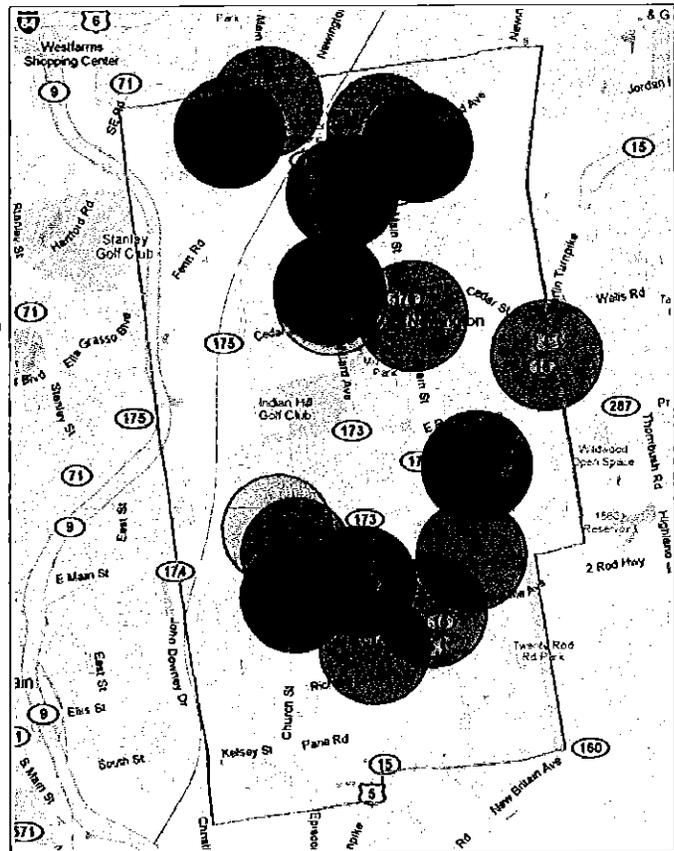


H.B. No. 5486 would introduce sex offender residency restrictions to Connecticut. The evidence to date indicates that blanket bans on sex offender residences do not protect our children. In the long run, they may actually expose communities to more risk by discouraging therapy, increasing homelessness, and harming ties to family and friends.

"But a study released in April by the Minnesota Department of Corrections, tracing 224 repeat sex offenders, concluded that *not one would have been deterred by a residency restriction law*. Social proximity was the key factor, it found, with half of the offenders establishing contact with victims through friends or acquaintances. Only 35 percent of the offenders made direct contact with victims, and *none of the juvenile cases involved contact near a school, park or other prohibited area*."¹

"Newark showed 196 registered sex offenders and 118 schools. With a 1,000-foot exclusion zone, 127 offenders would have to relocate. With a 2,500-foot zone, this figure jumps to 193, and the main parts of the city become completely off limits. *Only about 7 percent of city land would be compliant*."²



Map of Newington, CT displaying the extent of hypothetical sex offender residency restrictions (given the bill's current text). Even though Newington is a relatively diffuse suburb, sex offenders would be barred from living in a significant portion of it. More urban areas would have many more circles, and they would be placed far closer together. Some cities could even end up wholly covered, making them totally off-limits.

Key: Red circles are daycares; blue circles are public schools; green circles are private schools. This map does not take into account facilities located in other towns, which may spill over.

For more information, please see our full article: <http://ctpolicy.org/jcph>

1 <http://apublicdefender.com/2007/06/10/state-wide-struggle-over-ways-to-deal-with-sex-offenders/>

2 <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/topics/crime/rape-sexual-violence/sex-offenders/residency-mapping.htm>