Sept. 11, 2020

District Attorney Jackie Lacey's Sex Offender Registry Bill Giving Parity to the LGBTQ+ Community Becomes Law

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey applauded Governor Gavin Newsom for signing a bill into law today she co-sponsored mandating the fair and equitable application of the state's sex offender registration law regardless of sexual orientation.

"This bill brings much-needed parity to California's sex offender registration law," District Attorney Lacey said. "Senate Bill 145 allows judges and prosecutors to evaluate cases involving consensual sex acts between young people, regardless of their sexual orientation, on an individual basis. I drafted this bill because I believe the law must be applied equally to ensure justice for all Californians."

SB 145 gives judges the discretion to determine whether or not to require registration as a sex offender as part of the sentence in some criminal cases. It does not legalize sex with a minor nor does it change the sentence for a defendant charged with having sex with a minor.

Rather, SB 145 would give judges the same discretion that now applies to criminal cases involving heterosexual relationships.

By bringing legal parity to the sex offender registry, this law would extend the same benefits to the LGBTQ+ community. Placing a young person on the sex registry for life can have devastating effects on their ability to get a job, housing and be a productive member of society.

The bill was authored by State Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco).

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.