

CANADIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION

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ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES LIBERTES CIVILES

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November 3, 2009

By mail and email

Mr. Gary Breitkreuz, Chair
Standing Committee on Public
Safety and National Security
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
E-mail: secu@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Breitkreuz:

Re: Bill C-34 (*An Act to amend the Criminal Code and Other Acts*)

This is to express the concerns of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) regarding Bill C-34, which would make inclusion in the National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR) mandatory for designated offences and allow police to use, without restrictions, registry information to prevent sex crimes. While the CCLA is strongly supportive of the proposed legislation's apparent objective – the prevention and investigation of sexual offences – we believe that the suggested changes to the NSOR would create an overly inclusive registry that could be accessed for too broad a range of purposes. As a result, the changes proposed in the Bill are, in the CCLA's view, likely to do more to undermine civil liberties and due process than prevent sexual crimes.

Canadian courts have acknowledged that inclusion in the NSOR can have significant impacts on the liberty and privacy of those affected. Registrants

