

Dear Representative,

My name is Adam Richard Balden and I am a Michigan citizen and required registrant of SORA since 2008. I take full responsibility for my past actions and have worked hard to turn my life around after release from Incarceration. I graduated from Washtenaw Community College with an Associates in Human Services and I also earned a Bachelor of Social Work Degree from Eastern Michigan University (Summa Cum Laude). I also have spent years serving my community as a volunteer at Meals on Wheels (among other opportunities to serve). I believe that the public registry has not helped to keep our communities safe and the academic research confirms this. The SORA has greatly impacted my ability to find consistent housing and work. I also have been subjected to harassment as a result of the registry. The SORA has been detrimental to reintegration into society. It is my sincere desire to continue to fight for criminal justice reform while bettering myself as a productive, successful and law abiding member of society. I am advocating for the rejection of this House Bill and ultimately would like to obtain relief from SORA altogether. I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Adam Balden
BSW