

May 5, 2020

RE: HB 5679

Dear Representatives,

We would like to share with you the impact of the Michigan Sex Offender registry has had on our family. We are writing on behalf of our developmentally disabled daughter, Kelly.

In addition to being developmentally disabled, she has Asperger's Syndrome which is under the autism umbrella. When you meet Kelly, you would assume she is atypical ("normal"), which she is, in appearance. However, she is very socially limited and shy. When you interact with her, you would realize her shortcomings. We would have loved for you to meet her in person.

In the beginning of 2003, she was accused of molesting a child she babysat for a number of years. This did not happen; she passed three lie detector tests and two risk assessments, in addition to being tested by Dr. Gene Abel (internationally renowned doctor who works on sexual protection of children) and passed all testing. We were told by one of the doctors that Kelly is incapable of formulating criminal thought.

We fought the charges for 18 months in the courts, trying to bring the truth forth. We finally ran out of money and she was forced to take a plea. She was given a charge of CSC2 with a child under the age of 13, and placed on a life time registry. The judge in her case told me (off the record, of course) that she does not belong on the SOR, but that his hands "were tied" because the law does not allow judges leeway in sentencing these cases.

The registry has never allowed for any closure in our lives. Kelly has not been able to secure any employment to subsidize her SSI income, nor can she live in a group home because of the registry. She cannot apply for or obtain Section 8 housing because of the registry. At one point several years ago, we bought her a house that she lived in with another challenged person. We were forced to sell the house because it was determined that the property was 125 feet too close to school property. She cannot get an apartment because of the registry and we cannot financially purchase another home for her. She now lives in a bedroom in our basement. She is lonely and unable to socialize in the community due to her status on the registry.

We are retired and would love to move into a retirement community but cannot because we need to provide a place for Kelly to live. We have been ostracized in our neighborhood because of the registry.

We would welcome the opportunity for us and Kelly to meet with you personally in the hopes that you will consider more meaningful changes to the current bill and registry. Changes that can bring some measure of peace to many families, and better protect the citizens in Michigan. We are happy to meet with any of you once the stay at home order is lifted.

Sincerely,

Bruce and Candace Cline

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