

## Melissa Sweet

---

**From:** Derrick Freels <mcooley9610@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 10:24 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet; Rep. Graham Filler (District 93)  
**Subject:** House Bill 5679

To Whom this may concern,

I am writing in regards to the hearing over house bill 5679, The Michigan sex offender registry bill. I feel that this new bill shouldn't be introduced and that it is no different then the original bill that Judge Robert Cleland declared unconstitutional. The registry is bloated and it really dosent protect anyone and it potentially puts people in danger who were accused of a crime. Not everyone on the registry has actually committed a sex offense there are many people on the registry who were convicted because of false accusations. Alot of people being accused of these sex crimes had no means of paying for attorneys and ended up just taking plea deals because they had no other option. The registry needs reform and it still hasn't even after being declared unconstitutional!

There is no relief from the registry and people who once had relief that was taken away in 2011 when the bill that introduced the tier system was made a law. Alot of people who were looking forward to being off the registry were basically re-sentence to a life time term. This is one of the main points that I found unconstitutional it's like double jeopardy. Why should you have to continue to have something from your past continue to haunt you, it really hinders you from trying to do better! There are so many sex offenders who can't find work because of all the background checks that are required, and you have a bad name because of something like a sex offense that keeps popping up! One mistake shouldn't have to haunt you forever especially if it was years ago, other people who commit felonies don't have to register and they have easier times finding jobs because of that. I believe once you do your time and you go so many years without any criminal offenses you should be able to leave your past where it belongs in the past!

I am one who got the short end of the stick when the bill in 2011 was introduced. When I was sentenced I was only supposed to spend 25 years on the registry but when the laws changed that went to a lifetime registration sentence, eventhough i was sentenced under an old law. Even now with the new bill I'm still looking at having to register for life because of a charge my court appointed attorney got me to plea too because I too couldn't afford an attorney. I was charged with a csc 3rd (13 - 15) (750.520D1A) because this 15 year old girl went to school saying she had sex with me which never happened! My court appointed attorney talked me into pleading out to csc 2nd to get less jail time and I still ended up going to prison. Now when you look me up on the registry it shows my case as a csc 2nd (person under 12) (750.520C1A) which my attorney never even mentioned any of the extra age dropping or anything. I wanted to go to trial but my attorney told me if I lost i would do 15 years in prison and that I would more then likely loose because no one ever ends up winning sex cases! Under the new bill the penal code 750.520C1A still shows a lifetime registration even for people pre 2011 and my original charge 750.520D1A is not listed as one of the lifetime registration offenses! So not only am I still stuck on the registry for life still, my charge makes me look completely horrible! Eventhough the registry makes me look like a monster i am completely the opposite, I am a hard worker who owns my own home and has been married for 4 years now. I have not been in trouble with the law since I was convicted in 2007. That's 13 years completely clean but yet the state feels the community should be warned about me. I would like to continue to better myself in life by going after my dream of being a truck driver but I feel that something that happened to me when I was 21 will hold me back because of background checks and having to register. I'm 34 now and all I want to do is better myself for me and my family but feel like my dreams will be crushed!

I really thought that this new bill for the registry was gonna be a great reform but it turns out that it may only possibly help 1% of people on the registry. With how bloated the list is it is showing no signs of relief. Its just gonna continue to get larger and people who have been on for years and years they will probably be on it until they die unless there is some sort of reform. The list is a hindering eyesore on the internet that puts more lives in danger then it actually helps.

The list should be for people who are really sexual predators and a danger to the community not for people who made one mistake in their life or got accused of something that never happened. There are people on this list who are law abiding citizens fighting extra hard to do right and make a decent living but because this list harms them so much they can't move forward with their lives. More criteria really should be considered when putting people on or even keeping people on this list!

In conclusion I ask that you please deny moving forward with this new bill that is nothing more than a slight modification of the old bill. Let's really reform sex offender laws and how they get tried in court. Let's make the sex offender registry a tool that helps the community recognize real dangers and not just a waste of tax payers money.

Thank you,  
Derrick F.