

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** spiderlockhart52@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 11:03 AM  
**To:** Beau LeFave; Rep. Brian Elder (District 96); Rep. Daire Rendon (District 103); David LaGrand; Rep. Diana Farrington (District 30); Rep. Douglas Wozniak (District 36); Rep. Gary Howell (District 82); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Kyra Harris Bolden (District 35); Rep. Lee Chatfield (District 107); Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** A time for Deeper Consideration

It's a time for Political courage and the protection of our Michigan families.

The scope of the issues being considered by this committee are broad and significant to the population of our state even though few, including the shapers of the current registration scheme, have given these matters the deeper thought they deserve. OF all the many facets attendant upon your serious consideration, I'll mention here just one of the many: Victimization of the innocent.

My crime, the wrongs I did, had a terrible impact on my family of a wife and five children. The personal toll on them was terrible. But that toll was exacerbated, and its negative impact was exponentially severe as a result of my Sex Offender Registration.

A significant part of that re-victimization, not of me per se, but of my family, by the state's current public registration laws are related to it's dire economic consequences. Once registered, you will find gainful employment difficult. In my case, that had a major impact on my children's educational opportunities.

The public exposure related to the Michigan SOR is not only a mark of great shame to me, a perpetrator, but to each of my innocent children and to my spouse at the time.

As restrictions evolved and were applied retroactively, housing options became more tenuous, the ability to make sense and comply with the law vague and ever changing and more severe application, created additional criminal violations, legal costs and estrangement from my family.

Ultimately, after a divorce ( a common outcome, especially considering that the efforts of the State are expended on prosecution and retribution, not the potential for healing and reintegration, I was fortunate to find a home with a woman who could see me as someone who did something bad but who was, in fact, not a bad person.

Shortly thereafter, Michigan implemented changes in the SOR that clouded my conviction and lumped me into a tier with vague insights into my earlier behavior and that insured that I was likely to be a person of similar character to the worst sexual predators known to man. In fact, many of the actions that currently earn an individual membership to the ignominious SOR club, are common to human habitation and need be addressed in a setting beyond criminal prosecution in order to protect the victimization of the innocent family members.

With these changes, and the ongoing difficulties associated with maintaining an income and living quarters in Michigan, I moved to a State with somewhat saner registration requirements and where, in fact, I was not

required to register after ten years from my conviction. Again, much of the impact of this decision was on my new family who remained in Michigan.

I returned to Michigan to be closer to loved ones in 2018 and re-registered (Tier 2). For me, unless of course you, the legislators of our State, make additional, retroactive and severe changes to the law, I will escape the public shaming and extended hardships imposed for over twenty years for a mis-demeanor offense. I am witness to the need for change primarily for those who are younger and currently registered and those who are to become registered.

I have spoken to the economic impact and how the SOR works to victimize individual citizens beyond the perpetrator. I would also suggest that what we label as sexual crimes today have been a facet of human behavior since the tribalization of man. From foolish, adolescent pranks focused on genitalia, to acts of normal developmental discovery, to inappropriate behaviors and outright wrongful acts up to predatory and evil actions are lumped together for 40,000 Michiganders. The spread of the impact would have to be measured in the millions.

I implore that you, our leadership, throw off the mantle of political anxiety and reconvene your consideration toward an evidenced based, sensible improvement to the SOR and do so at a time when broader inputs can be had after a more normalized social environment exists related to the current safety issues related to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Regards

Harry Lockhart