

Dear House Judiciary Committee Representatives,

I am asking that you postpone your hearing for Bill No. 5679 until the Stay-At-Home Order is lifted to allow families the opportunity to tell their stories. To my dismay, if you move forward with the hearing then please consider the following:

Do you have a loved one on the registry? I never thought I would until a relative was convicted at a young age. I now see the challenges it causes our entire family. Is there no hope for the future? Being on the registry is like having a target on your back that does not allow a person to become a successful contributor to society. There are registrants who deserve a second chance. Not all convictions are the same and all post incarceration should not be treated the same either. The registry treats everyone the same no matter what their convictions are and this is not right or humane.

Imagine your child being convicted of a non-violent sexual crime and finding out that your child was also sexually abused while growing up during their trial. Imagine the shock and heartbreak of this news. Knowing you did all the right things to give your child the best opportunity for a successful life and now they are incarcerated. After they complete their sentence they will continue to pay the price for their conviction by being on the registry. Their future is bleak at best. The registry is continued punishment with no way for the registrant to obtain a normal life, getting a good job, living in a nice home & neighborhood, forming a relationship, getting married or having a family.

The registry is wrong, it denotes the registrant as dangerous and to stay away from them. They lose employment due to someone seeing their name on the registry, family members are shamed, children of registrants are bullied, safety concerns are real due to people taking the law into their own hands against the registrant and their families, universities deny them admission, and employers won't hire them. This is wrong and unjust.

We need a way to rehabilitate the person returning to society. Yes, the person. We are talking about people. They need a way that positively reinforces success and helps the person overcome their pain. How do we expect people to come to terms with their actions if they are constantly reminded of their limitations? There are people who deserve a second chance and a registry is not helping society as a whole. If anything, it spreads fear for those who do not understand and places a target on a person and their family.

Please, please postpone the hearing until we 'the people and families' of loved ones who are forced to live a life of hardship can express our voices.

Regards,

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