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DATE: July 16th, 2019

TO: Ms. Dana Nessel
Michigan Department Attorney General
G. Mennen Williams Building
525 W. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 30212
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Sex Offender Registry

Dear Madame Attorney General;

Referring to your views publicly established regarding our state's Sex Offender Registry Act I have this to say: The act, including the public registry, has ruined my life.

I am a professional gay man of 56 years living as a married homeowner in a same-sex marriage in the city of Ferndale. Many years ago, I was convicted of soliciting/accosting a minor for immoral purposes online. I was in an adult chatroom on AOL engaging in a very inappropriate conversation with a police officer posing as a minor representing the city of Royal Oak where I had lived temporarily at the time before I embarked on a move of a lifetime to New York City. I was thoroughly and completely responsible for engaging in this very inappropriate chat. Was I going through a midlife crisis? Of course I was. Do I deeply regret my troubled times? Absolutely! But this has left me professionally bankrupt.

I am the luckiest man in the world to have a long term relationship with a great guy and to have eventually married this guy. I come from an average middle class Jewish home in Oak Park, Michigan. I have a decent and loving family, and decent and loving friends. I have led a life filled with education, adventure and dedication to any endeavor to which I chose. I dropped out of graduate school to pursue a career in food service. I did not have to do this. I was not forced to do this. This was not a choice of last opportunity for me. This was and is my career choice! But I cannot get a position at all in my chosen career as a catering director or restaurant manager for the life of me.

I recently lost my long-term position at my last place of employment. I was forced out after many years. But this is perhaps a different matter. I am lucky to be working at all as

a server in a well-established venue. Returning to this sort of physical labor is extremely difficult on me as I suffer from several maladies which give me great pain in doing such. And I want you to know that every time that I submit a resume and/or have a great interview, I find myself walking into a brick wall. Prospective employers will become excited by my resume, will have great interviews with me, then the phone grows cold and I don't hear from them again. And it is the same outcome every time: They Google me and discover my name on the Sex Offender Registry or on related web pages. My life as I knew it appears to be over at the age of 56.

When I was pushed out of my last position I had to think fast and put my mortgage into forbearance. This of course, will ruin one's FICO. Mine was previously over 800. It is now 685. My interest rates on my credit cards have started to climb astronomically in my credit unworthiness. And the thing that hurts me the most is that I was on track to assume an existent restaurant as the owner when my backer probably discovered my past and backed out at the eleventh hour as we were heading into the final stretch. And I could not get an SBA loan because of my criminal background – the type of criminal background that is taboo! Now I can't get anything from anyone at any time. I am so very sad.

I am not a child molester. I am not a rapist. I am not a thief, larcenist or embezzler. I am a very sad man who once had a great career arc in his chosen field who became a double felon without leaving his living room while trying to work out what it meant not to be young anymore.

I welcome any correspondence in which you or your staff may want to engage with me. I do so hope that the state's challenge to SORA is successful giving back the lives to so many of us returning to us our sense of duty, productivity and civic engagement while leaving the public safe and content.

Respectfully,

Marc Mege

CC: Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Ms. Miriam Aukerman ACLU Michigan