

TO: Chairperson, Representative Filler
RE: Written Testimony for HB 5679 hearing of May 6, 2020

My name is Shirley Parrott and I am the mother of Jennifer (Jen) Lynn Parrott. Jennifer took a no contest plea for accosting a minor and was convicted on May 5, 2006 (MCL750.145a(a)). She was placed on the SO registry for 25 years. Her felony charges were set aside four years ago on March 4, 2016 (File No. 05-09675-FH). Not only Jen's life, but mine also, changed in horrendous ways from the day she had to register.

I will not go into the multiple horrifying ordeals Jen has been through as a result of being placed on the registry. Many times, this involved those in law enforcement positions treating her with total disdain and disrespect for no reason other than the fact she is on the registry. Early on, we found several times police in the cities around her residence lied to her/us with excuses as to why they could not take her fingerprints. This was required by law to be completed by a specific date. Jen had taken time off work to get this done and no police department in the cities around, including Troy, were willing to their duty for a "sex offender". I was with her as we went from police department to police department. We were lied to over and over again by police, making excuses as to why they could not take her prints; leaving us in a state of panic wondering how we were going to get this done. We finally were successful at the Madison Heights Police Department but only after dealing with their reluctance to do so. This is my point; if our law enforcement public "servants" can treat Jen like this, think what else law enforcement may be capable of doing to her on any given day at any given time. People should not fear those who are suppose to protect them. Yet, this is what Jen deals with everyday - fear of authorities.

Below is a list of some of the ways the registry continues to stifle Jen's efforts to move forward with her life in a positive way.

+ Jen lives in Orlando in a neighborhood that has a next door app. When she tried to sign up for it, she was denied because of their policy regarding the SOR. Isolated from the neighborhood group. Remember, she has no criminal record but is still on the registry.

+ Jen works as a Manager for UPS in high end security. Many times, there have been employees who have found her SOR information on their phone and then passed their phone from employee to employee. This causes a major breakdown of employer/employee relationships. Remember, she has no criminal record but is still on the registry.

+ Jen was chosen by UPS to go for an extensive security training course in California. California has a policy of not allowing sex offenders to come into the state for such purposes. Jen had to cancel her flights and was denied the extra training that would have been invaluable for her to do her job more effectively. Remember, she has no criminal record but is still on the registry.

+ Even if Jen is eligible for and deserving of promotions at UPS, it is not likely to happen with her being on the registry. Remember, she has no criminal record but is still on the registry.

+ A large part of Jen's work responsibilities is finding employees who are stealing high end packages from UPS, and she is good at it. However, sometimes this requires her to go to court to testify for the state against a criminal. There is always a fear factor regarding her SOR information being allowed in the hearing, causing a distraction from the case itself and thus deterring real justice from being served. Remember, she has no criminal record but is still on the registry.

+There are many opportunities with work and other venues for volunteer service. Jen loves to help others individually or through volunteer programs but is restricted in doing so many times because of restrictions of the SOR. Remember, she has no criminal record but is still on the registry.

+There are times when Jen must rent a car on the spot for work. This car must be reported to the Orlando Police Department, causing extra burden in doing her job expeditiously. Remember, she has no criminal record but is still on the registry.

+Because of Jen's registry information so available, there is always the fear of a disgruntled employee, neighbor or even a stranger attempting to "set her up" or harm her in some way. If some police treat one as if they were scum because they are on the SOR, what is to stop anyone who has something against you from doing something to harm you? Remember, she has no criminal record but is still on the registry.

+Jen has a 98 year old grandmother who lives in Michigan. She knows it is just a matter of time before she may have to make a quick trip to, hopefully, see her one last time. In order to leave the state, she must go to the Orlando Police Department and inform them she is going out of state. What if this happens after hours or on a weekend? Does she miss that one last opportunity with her Grams? Remember, she has no criminal record but is still on the registry.

+When Jen travels home or anyplace else and is going to be driving another vehicle, rented or borrowed, she must inform the Orlando Police Department of the vehicle and license plate number. She must also carry her SOR papers with her in case she is pulled over by the police. Remember, she has no criminal record, but is still on the registry.

+Every quarter of every year, Jen must take time off work and go to the Orlando Police Department to sign in as a sex offender. She has been treated like scum there, also, by some past employees and made to wait hours even though no one else was waiting. Fortunately, this situation has improved but it is still time off work and pressure to be sure it is done.

+I, Jen's mother, had someone contact me by phone claiming to be a sheriff from the Orlando Police Department stating that Jen had not shown up for jury duty and would have to appear in court. She had been called for jury duty but had informed them she could not participate because she was on the SOR. We were all devastated that she would be facing another charge because she was working to get her charges set aside. When Jen called the detective who makes house visits (to make sure she is still living at her address), he informed her it was a scam. How easy it is to scam those who are so vulnerable under this public SOR. Those on the SOR are afraid of doing something or not doing something that may cause them to have another felony; and those possibilities are great. Remember, Jen does not have a criminal record but is still on the registry.

There are so many more areas I could list where being on the SOR inhibits Jen from being more productive in society and from living a normal life as others live. She does not have the freedoms you and I have. Please remove these chains and let her soar. And remember, she does not have a criminal record but is still chained to the registry.

Thank you for your consideration in my request that those on the SOR who no longer have a criminal record, are removed from the SOR.

Sincerely,
Shirley Parrott
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