

## Impact Statement

Greg W

### House Judiciary Hearing - May 6, 2020 – HB 5679 -- Sex Offender Registry Reform

Greg W., Affiant, states under penalty of perjury that the facts stated below are correct, complete and certain to the best of Affiant's knowledge and belief; that the undersigned is competent to testify in a court of law; that that the undersigned will testify under oath to the truthfulness of this affidavit if necessary; and further states: Affiant was convicted of 750.520e1a (1 count) 4<sup>th</sup> degree CSC (misdemeanor) on 10 / 20 / 2005. As a result, Affiant served 3 years probation and was registered under Michigan's Sex Offender Registration Act (SORA) on 10 /20/ 2005. Affiant has committed no felony since 10/20/2005. Affiant testifies that SORA imposes cruel and unusual punishment on Affiant and Affiant's family members follows:

**NOTE: My conviction was set aside on 12/29/2014 yet I am required to register for life.** *How can the government require me to register if I do not have a conviction? Why does the government inform the public of a conviction that does not exist on public record?*

#### Job/Employment Impact:

- 1) April 2007 I was fired from my Job of 20 years at General Motors. My firing was a direct result of someone in my neighborhood that also worked at GM who informed my boss. My annual income was approx. 120,000 per year and included a company vehicle plus great benefits.
- 2) April 2014 I was fired from AutoTrader because my boss was shown my information on the sex offender website. The salary for that job was approx. \$150,000 per year.
- 3) 2014 I was denied a job at Market Scan (California based automotive data company) solely because of Sex Offender Registry
- 4) April 2016 I was denied an Uber job solely because of the Registry (I applied after my record was set aside).
- 5) October 2017 I was offered a contract job in Canada. The company was going to pay me \$85/hr. Once the company determined I was on the Sex Offender Registry they decided not to pursue the project because they did not want to risk their reputation with Customs at the US/Canada boarder since they have many employees going back and forth between the two countries.
- 6) I estimate the Sex Offender Registry has cost me a loss of income of approx. \$1,200,000 to date.
- 7) I no longer look for jobs – why should I
- 8) I currently have a small contract job however when the company finds about my status they will no doubt fire me.

I have 3 degrees including Masters from Central Michigan University + post Master certification from Michigan State University.

#### Family Impact:

- 1) I have been married for 30+ years. My wife is amazing and I am very blessed that she stuck with me. We have frequent (weekly at times) arguments over her decision to stay with me. There are constant stresses with my inability to get a decent job. I do expect that she will eventually file for divorce – why should stay with a person that cannot provide for her.

- 2) My wife and I have lost dozens of friends. My wife feels embarrassed to be with me because of how her mom, family member and friends feel. She still works at a large company - her coworkers know nothing of me. She has no pictures of me on her desk so she can avoid any potential issues.
- 3) My Daughter Danielle feels embarrassed about herself because of her dad. My daughter and I have a strained relationship. I cannot blame her. Since I cosigned for her car I am required to list her car as part of my registry responsibilities even though I have never driven her car and she does not live in same house.
- 4) The Holidays are very lonely – My wife attends her family gatherings. I stay home and do not participate with most holidays.
- 5) I am very lucky to have my wife and a place to live.

**Personal Relationships Impact:**

- 1) I have been confronted numerous times because of the SOR website and lost many longtime friends.
- 2) Someone created a fictitious Facebook profile of me and displayed my mug shot from registry
- 3) I do not try to make new friends because of the eventual reality of losing them.
- 4) I am not invited to participate with any family events.

**Other Impacts:**

- 1) Because I could not get a job I tried to own my own business and purchased a franchise. I liquidated my IRA to fund a business which failed. I now have no retirement funds.
- 2) My wife would like to take a vacation outside of the US. This is not possible for me.
- 3) I have family in Canada and Philippines – I am not able to visit even for weddings or funerals.

In closing, I take ownership of my offense and fulfilled the penalty obligations (3 years probation). However, the registry continues to inflict punishment on all levels of my life.. My inability to get a job and provide for my family has caused depression and extreme sadness with myself and my family. It does not seem right especially when its considered that I have no conviction on file public record to be listed as sex offender on a public website. Yes, suicide often comes to mind and I struggle with it all the time.

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