

May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## **Addendum to House Bill 5679 Testimony**

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I wish to reiterate my opposition to House Bill 5679.

I've watched all public committee meetings for the bill to this point and testified during the first meeting.

Two things have stood out to me. First, I've noted almost unanimous opposition to this poorly written and harmful bill.

Secondly, I've watched testimony and discussion over a number of other bills handled during the committee meetings. I noticed several questions and back-and-forth discourse during the discussion about these bills.

Yet there has been overwhelming testimony, including from experts in the field, about HB 5679 and there are *no real questions*. The only questions were rather offensive, "what did you do" and "when did you do it."

There seems to be no desire to understand why this bill is so terrible and why a sex offender registry, in general, is harmful to the people condemned and branded for life by perpetual punishment. There has been no courageous discussion about how the registry is ineffective and how the focus should instead pivot to primary prevention and victim services that truly work – that truly keep children and families safe.

Where is the courage to take a stand for a healthier, safer Michigan?

Sincerely,

Kristen S. Burgess