

Jamie Butchbaker
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Chairman and the House Judiciary Committee
Michigan State Capitol
100 N Capitol Ave, Lansing, MI 48933
HB 5679 - Modify Michigan's Sex Offenders Registration Act

5/12/2020

Dear Chairman and the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I will address my experience as an SORA registrant, address my concerns, and make a conclusion to SORA. As an SORA registrant, it is important to comply with the current laws; however this current law is unconstitutional, ineffective, confusing, and does not work.

I was in jail for 79 days, convicted, released, put on SORA, following mandated rules/laws, pay fees yearly, and try to understand the laws with SORA. I successfully completed 1 year of mandated sex offender counseling, 4 years of probation, and sought help with my own counselor for a year. I have not recidivated since then.

In 2010, I have had my felony expunged or set aside, but the only way was to be active on SORA. The order states that "as if I committed the crime" to be on SORA. This is unconstitutional. Still, I have complied with SORA knowing this is wrong. I know this is wrong, unconstitutional, and I want to be off SORA. Anyone who has had their felony expunged or set aside needs to be removed. The law does not need to be modified, it needs to be rewritten that is fair and constitutional. I want a law that effectively works, to protect family and children and the SORA registrant. Currently, it does not.

I have three beautiful kids; they are 10, 14, and 21. During my time on SORA I have not been able to go ANY of their school events, some of their friends no longer come over, and all over have affected them unimaginably. The adverse effect of not being able to spend time with them during school activities, friends no longer coming over will be lost, and this will always be on their mind during adulthood. This will always be something I have to live with.

In 2018, I have obtained a BS in Computer Networking in hopes of providing a better life for my family. Unfortunately, I have yet to land a great career. I was let go of a contractual job from a FBI background check that shown me being on SORA. I have been refused for other jobs due to my SORA background. I have been refused for housing/rentals numerous times. This is unfair and unconstitutional.

In conclusion, it's time for a law that works for families and their children, and SORA registrants. As the current law stands, modifying the law will only make it more confusing for families with children and SORA registrants trying to understand the rules/law. Current registrants that have had their felony set aside needs to be removed. The law is currently unconstitutional, unfair, and does not work.

Please reconsider the law to be modified, look deeply into the law, and change it to benefit everyone. The current law infringes in many ways and many lives. It must be rewritten to effectively be constitutional.

Thank you,

Jamie Butchbaker