Melissa Sweet

From: Jason T <jasont3273@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 8:36 PM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: Sex offender bill objection

I am just writing to ask that you don't allow this bill to proceed. I am on the registry for a high school romance case (consensual senior/freshman) from 2000. I have not been in any trouble since then, 20 years. I'm Currently married for 12 years and have an 8 year old son. In 2011 my time on the registry went from 25 years to life, without any day in court, as well as all the other punitive changes I've been forced to follow in the 2006/2011 unconstitutional changes. On top of that, the crime I plead to is also a non-expungable crime, so either way I look at it I have no path to a second chance. I am not able to attend any of my sons baseball, football games. I cannot attend any school functions for him or my niece who is active in many sports. If you have children, just imagine having to explain to your only son why you can't attend any of his games or school functions. Because of one mistake you made 20 years ago. These laws have MADE me an absentee father outside of my home. Please give those like me who made one error in judgement 20 years ago, a chance to move forward, off the registry, and a pathway to expungement.
America is suppose to be the land of second chances, yet here I am having mine withheld indefinitely.

Jason Teaster
Wayne County, MI

Sent from my iPhone

Melissa Sweet

From: danielruttyiii <danielruttyiii@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 1:43 AM
To: Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Melissa Sweet
Subject: Regarding HB5679

Dear Sir and Committer Members:

I Strongly oppose HB 5679..

Here is an interesting article and event, that just happened on Monday, May 11th. This ruling comes out of the State of Pennsylvania, and is something that I believe that State of Michigan, Legislation, and this committee really needs to look at, and it could have some weight here in Michigan. Here is the summary of what happened.

PA: COURT DETERMINES ANNUAL REGISTRATION, INTERNET PUBLICATION PUNISHMENT

- May 12, 2020
- ·10 Comments

[ACSOL]
The Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania issued an important decision on May 11, 2020, in which it determined that annual registration as well as publication of a registrant's personal information on the internet constitutes punishment. The petition in this case committed a sex offense prior to the effective date of these requirements.

According to the Court, annual in-person registration "imposes affirmative restraints and probation-like conditions." The Court determined that the annual registration requirement was excessive. The Court also ruled that the state law requiring the posting a registrant's personal information on a public lawsuit was punitive because "the Internet dissemination provision resembles history shaming punishments." The Court also noted that Internet dissemination was "excessive in relation to the assigned purposes of protecting the public in the immediate vicinity where the offender resides."

"The judges in this case are to be commended for their ability to clearly see that the registration requirements at issue in this case constitute punishment," stated ACSOL Executive Director Janice Bellucci. "It is hoped that judges in other states will follow their example

Also, Since Judge Cleland's injunction on SORA, due to the coronavirus, what is the recidivism rate for Sex Offenders at this time, during the injunction?? Has anyone had new charges?? I haven't heard of any. If this is the case, this should show that a registry not immediately needed to be rushed, and time needs to be taken on properly writing a law that will suit everyone, just not the public. If there has not been any problems since this last couple of weeks, why do we need a registry that will punish people for life without a chance to ever be free and have a second chance?

Melissa Sweet

From: Phil Byers <pbyers1@emich.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 11:58 AM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: HB 5679

I oppose this bill
--
Thank you,
Phil Byers

I am proud of who I am. I am a proud, decorated, (including 2 Purple Hearts) Vietnam Veteran. I am proud to be an American, even today, despite the justice system.

Upon my death, I am to be buried at great Lakes National cemetery in Holy Michigan, with full military honors, as were some of my other veteran friends.

I do not want to disgrace my service, my friends or my country by having one mistake hanging over my head.
I would like to try to get off the sex offender list entirely, but if that is not possible, at least not have to report to the police department 4 times per year, because I made a mistake in judgment or was not thinking correctly at an instant in my life.

This is my crime in a nut shell. If you want more information, police interviews, etc. I have it in writing from the court system. I will share it with you if you want.

I got addicted to internet porn. As with any addiction, it got worse and worse.
In July 2009, at my home, in the pool, I touched my 10 year old grand daughter inappropriately. I touched her vagina 3 to 5 times over a one to two minute period, not inside her swimming suit, but on the outside. I made no attempt to do anything else. This started my downfall of life. The Child Protective Service people got involved, then the court system, the trial, then the sentencing. I pleaded guilty to avoid having to bring my grand daughter in to the court room and further hurt her. I knew that I made a mistake as soon as I did what I did. It seemed to me at the time that I may have had an out of body experience. I knew what happened, but I could not believe that I was the one that did it. I know it sounds like an excuse, but it is the truth. I have been seeing my psychologist (also a Vietnam veteran) for 6 years, finding out why I would do something like I did. I have found out that I do have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Just like thousands of other veterans that didn't know they had it. I thought that I would never have it. I found out that your mind blocks out events that are just too many and too traumatic for the mind to focus on. I was in combat and had the same kind of out of body experiences. That is what your mind does, when it can't handle all the stress it has to handle. At the time of my crime I had been having a very stressful time with my now ex wife and my employer.

This is why I do not think the punishment I received fits my crime.

Please let me know if there is anything that can be done or any support you need.

Sincerely

Stanley William Miller
3307 Ormond
White Lake, Michigan 48383
Phone 248 310 3925
e-mail lube6646@aol.com

June 25, 2015

To Whom it may concern:

I recently read a newspaper article in the Detroit Free Press dated April 7, 2016. It stated that a federal judge (U.S. District Judge) Robert Cleland struck down several reporting requirements of the 1994 Michigan Sex Offender registry law that made it more strict. I recently read another dated May 17, 2015, entitled : "Does the sex offender registry keep us safer?"
I agree with a comment that was made saying "that this law is not keeping us safe and that we should base it on facts, not fear." Parts of this law are a true waste of tax payer money, I believe.

Being an offender, I have always thought that my punishment did not fit my crime and that I was just put in the same category as other offenders that had committed worse crimes.

I am classified as a Tier 3 offender, which includes many different levels of crimes. and I am on a public list to be seen by anyone. Please see the include attachment. Tier 3 offenders must report to their police department once every 3 months to reregister their information on housing, phone numbers, internet, vehicles, etc. for life. It seems to me that some Tier 1 and 2 offenders have committed worse crimes than I have, are on a non-public list, and they must register only once or twice per year and for a short period of years.
I believe that there needs to be another category for offenders that are not habitual or criminally motivated. It has been proven that I am not dangerous or going to reoffend.

I am 69 years old and committed my crime 6 years ago when I was 63 years old. I have just completed my probation period and once per month reporting day, without a miss on my reporting times and dates. I have had no police contact for infractions or violated my probation ever. I have been and will continue to report to the White Lake Police department to register for the rest of my life, which seems cruel and unfair. I relive my crime each time I go there. I am already humiliated enough by having my family turn against me. I was grandpa to 6 wonderful kids. I lost them, my wife, my self esteem, my dignity and the nice life I once had. That seems like enough punishment for my crime.

I have done all the work that I can do to understand what happened to me. I completed the court ordered one year Community Programs Psychological program and at the same time was and am still seeing my own psychologist. I have been rehabilitated. My self esteem has been 75% restored. (I was close to suicide).
I am an outstanding, very honorable law abiding citizen, I always vote, have never been in prison, have never been in trouble with the law, do not have a previous record and always try to obey the laws of our country. I have worked for the same company for 42 years.

I served my country in Vietnam in 1967 – 1968 in the U.S. Army Combat Infantry. Now I am considered a Felon, instead of a Hero. It just does not make sense. I am proud of my accomplishments. I should not be made to feel like a second class citizen.

Melissa Sweet

From: Ian MacGregor <macwellman1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 6:52 PM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: HB 5679

To the House Judiciary Committee

I am opposed the HB 5679.
The Judge found Michigan current sex registry to be incomprehensible and HB 5679 does not fix this problem.

Ian MacGregor

Melissa Sweet

From: ultracobra71@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:40 AM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: House Bill 5679

HOUSE BILL 5679

Please revise this bill to make it FOR one ,constitutional , two, effectible too allow offenders to be able too look forward too one day of a life free and equal as the American constitution reads after someone has served their debt too society , Not having a way off a registry is WRONG . The registry is a life of HELL. In 1992 I was a very young man, there was NO registry , I was sentenced to 1 to 3 1/2 years , Before a registry ever existed, Today I am 48, I have paid my debt 100 times over for my sentence . Please allow myself my family and 44000 other citizens and their families who have served their time to be NORMAL ! Below is a unconstitutional law that was applied to me ex post facto.. years after my sentence ?? , & Below that.... is ALL the other B.S amendments applied too me and my family over the last 28 years ! I AM TIRED !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Please allow myself and my family to be free and the opportunity to have a EQUAL CHANCE !!!! I HAVE NEVER RE OFFENDED AND I NEVER WILL !

First applied 2 years after my sentence NOT by a court (Jude or Jury) but a unconstitutional law retro applied to me .

1994 SORA First Enacted:

- confidential, non-public, law enforcement database;
- no regular reporting requirements;
- revealing registry information is a crime & a tort (treble damages);
- 25 year inclusion in database, except repeat offenders
- allowed limited public inspection of registry information

Now below are all the punishment myself and family have felt after we have done NOTHING to deserve for years and years !

2013 Amendments:

- imposed annual fee.

2011 Amendments:

- created federal SORNA-based 3-tier system;
- classified registrants retroactively into tiers based solely on offense;
- tier level determines length of registration and frequency of reporting;
- retroactively extended registration period to life for Tier III registrants;
- offense pre-dating registry results in registration if convicted of any new felony ("recapture" provision);
- in-person reporting for vast amount of information (like internet identifiers);
- "immediate" reporting for minor changes (like travel plans & email accounts).

2006 Amendments:

- criminalized working within 1,000 feet of a school:
- criminalized living within 1,000 feet of a school;
- criminalized "loitering" within 1,000 feet of a school;
- increased penalties;
- created public email notification system.

2004 Amendments:

- registrants' photos posted on the internet;
- imposed registry fee, and made it a crime not to pay the fee.

2002 Amendments:

- added new in-person reporting for higher educational settings.

1999 Amendments:

- created internet-accessible registry;
- required quarterly or annual in-person registration;
- required fingerprinting and photographs;
- increased penalties for SORA violations;

- expanded categories of people required to register.

Please consider the damage this registry does too the young men of this state , It isn't justice it isn't rehabilitation it is a road to NOTHING ! Everyone deserves a chance to live a normal life !

Thank You for your time . Todd

Melissa Sweet

From: Kathie Gourlay <gourlay222@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:37 AM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: Written testimony for House Judiciary Committee

Please distribute to House Judiciary Committee members for this week's discussion of HB 5679.
Thank you,
Kathie Gourlay

To: Members of Michigan's House Judiciary Committee

Re: HB 5679, changes to the sex offense law

Federal Courts have decided that Michigan's sex offense registry law violates the Constitution in several ways:
-- it is punishment, and so its 2006 and 2011 changes cannot be applied retroactively, i.e. to people whose offenses pre-date those dates,
-- a part violates people's 1st amendment rights,
-- parts are vague or ambiguous and therefore unenforceable, and
-- the entire law is so complicated that there must be willful intent to be charged with violating it.

HB 5679 does not fix all these constitutional problems.

Moreover, evidence shows:
-- that public sex offense registries in the United States do not improve safety*1,
-- more than 90% of sex crimes are committed by someone not on a registry, and
-- even those people released from prison with a sex offense that are evaluated as high risk, if they do not commit another sex crime within 20 years, are no more likely to do so than any other ex-felon*2.

I don't believe politically that Michigan is ready to eliminate its public sex offense registry, but it can be improved.

Therefore, I suggest a registry that:
-- is simple; similar to the early registries, such as Alaska's that was considered administrative, not punishment, and was found constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in Smith v. Doe. This will then be able to be applied to all registrants (i.e. no retroactivity problem). It will have only basic information: name, crime, photo, and address.
-- has no geographic safety zones; and
-- is based on risk to reoffend. People with a low-risk to re-offend will be removed (or not placed on it). Every 5 years people will be re-assessed. There will be a 20 year maximum.

This written law need only be about two-pages long, making it understandable by both law enforcement and registrants, as compared to this bill and our current law which are incomprehensible.

My son is on Michigan's sex offense registry for life (like most people on Michigan's registry*3) for doing consensual sexual things with two underage teenage boys when he was in his twenties. It requires going to the police station in person more than 4 times a year and almost guarantees that one will at some time forget to register something in time. You may think that this law will never affect your family, but Michigan has the 3rd highest per capita registry in the United States*3. The most common age for someone to commit a sexual crime is 14 years old*4! It is extremely common. Education, prevention, and therapy are less expensive and better solutions for society than a lifetime of shaming and discrimination.

You are legislators; please legislate a law that will be effective! Don't just rubber stamp a failed status quo.

*1 https://nam03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpsycnet.apa.org%2Frecord%2F2008-18509-003&data=02%7C01%7Cmsweet%40house.mi.gov%7Ce99ffd132ad44208d12808d7f5c1249d%7C2d22da34df4044e581670c9860b4a3a9%7C1%7C0%7C637248083107658007&sdata=dawnfRg3vB1cNL6F5gpS9WbXLvfXJRbMhv9qX115jBA%3D&reserved=0
*2
https://nam03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.apa.org%2Fpubs%2Fjournals%2Ffeatures%2Flaw-law0000135.pdf&data=02%7C01%7Cmsweet%40house.mi.gov%7Ce99ffd132ad44208d12808d7f5c1249d%7C2d22da34df4044e581670c9860b4a3a9%7C1%7C0%7C637248083107667965&sdata=eI7Xe0fRGQW7r5af%2F4yL2zVqYnISEVX4Hx%2F4wboiI5E%3D&reserved=0
*3 https://nam03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aclumich.org%2Fen%2Fnews%2Fbasic-facts-about-michigans-sex-offender-registry&data=02%7C01%7Cmsweet%40house.mi.gov%7Ce99ffd132ad44208d12808d7f5c1249d%7C2d22da34df4044e581670c9860b4a3a9%7C1%7C0%7C637248083107667965&sdata=kempeBN8jVpcsWeoIRtWA%2BY6AKtdccm1gusgOf78cAc%3D&reserved=0
*4 https://nam03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.freerangekids.com%2Fwhat-is-the-most-common-age-of-a-sex-offender-surprise%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cmsweet%40house.mi.gov%7Ce99ffd132ad44208d12808d7f5c1249d%7C2d22da34df4044e581670c9860b4a3a9%7C1%7C0%7C637248083107667965&sdata=KYtK27uxJuy%2BRYpLxHyKL%2FKsjohBFDTYEx0AhXriYmI%3D&reserved=0

Sincerely,

Kathie Gourlay, mother of a registrant
12665 McKinley Heights Court
Chelsea, MI 48118
gourlay222@gmail.com

Melissa Sweet

From: Jim Chendes <chendhigh@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 12:30 PM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: I oppose HB #5679

Hi Melissa,

Please forward this letter to the House Judiciary Committee.

Thanks,
James C.

May 11, 2020
RE: HB5679

House Judiciary Committee,

I oppose HB 5679. This bill does not change much about Michigan's sex offense registration act, so the harm caused by Michigan's SORA law will continue. This law needs to be totally rewritten to address its many shortcomings. Judge Robert H. Cleland found Michigan's current registry law to be incomprehensible, and HB 5679 makes it even more so. (It doesn't fix the problem).

I have a son in elementary school. I'm unable to support him at school and sporting events. The current registry impacts him (an innocent victim) and my other family members.

The current Law (in any form) will continue to punish me and the majority of registrants after serving our sentences.

Even though I have degrees (BBA / MSM) and 25 years' experience. It is difficult to maintain employment and to be able to support my son. Because of the SORA's negative impact.

Going forward, a revised SORA should include:
~ A private registry, shorter registration periods.
~ No school exclusion zones (even the current MSP opinion, conflicts HB 5679)
~ An early path off the registry if you can show you no longer pose a danger.
~ Online reporting
~ Tier I registrants should not be on ANY registry.

Michigan Legislators have had 4 years to address the current SORA shortcomings. It appears to me that you are rushing to implement HB5679 furthering the unconstitutional nature of SORA. Just to have an answer for the Federal case in front of Judge Cleland.

Please take this time to re-write Michigan SORA to make it constitutional and addresses the known shortcomings.

Thank you for your consideration.

James C.

Melissa Sweet

From: Kathy Swastek <kathyswas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 12:05 PM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: HB5679, 2nd meeting

Ms Sweet,
I understand that a second meeting is scheduled for this week -despite the stay at home orders by the governor, but I also understand the meeting will be 'televised' by various venues. Thank you for providing that.

I wrote last week expressing my concerns about the current law, as it is a guarantee for individual failure. It is simply a permanent long standing public shaming/punishment platform toward individuals and their families. There is absolutely no rehabilitative quality to it. My son was 18 when he committed his computer crime, and the quality of his life is horrible and his future is dismal. No other crime has a permanent punishment attached like this. He cannot attend the university, cannot find a job and cannot even attend church with us. His mental state is abysmal. He commented that our Covid 19 quarantine hasn't affected him much - well, BECAUSE OF THE REGISTRY HE HAS BEEN SOCIALLY QUARANTINED FOR TWO YEARS AND WILL BE FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS - PROBABLY THE REST OF HIS LIFE.
He made a really stupid mistake when he was 18...had no idea of the consequences -he's not an evil person. His mistake was just 'stupider' than the ones you and I made at age 18. How many on the registry are like that? (A LOT!!)

Besides fixing the unconstitutional parts, would the committee consider making the registry private? What about a path to exit early for "good behavior' like prisons offer? Knowing the statistics for recidivism are so

low, it seems people who earn it should be able escape the oppression is causes them...allow them and their families some hope.

I thank you for reading my note again, and I pray you will consider my thoughts.

Melissa Sweet

From: Kristen Victor <kristen_victor@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 9, 2020 9:18 PM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: HB 5679 - Stop the Registry
Attachments: Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology.pdf; Bureau of Justice Statistics Executive Summary.pdf

Good Evening Ms. Sweet,

As the wife of a Registered Sex Offender (conviction 2002) and the mother to two young children with a Registered Sex Offender, I'd like to share excerpts from an article to further support that public sex offender registrations do not make communities safer, they don't serve much true purpose at all. I strongly oppose HB 5679 and further think that any public sex offender registry should be abolished.

The author, Sandy Rozek, is communications director for NARSOL (National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws), editor-in-chief of the Digest and a writer for the Digest and the NARSOL website. "What keep us safe? It's sure not the sexual offense registry" was published April 16, 2020.

"Sex offenders have always been with us. Those who are convicted of committing rape and sexual assault and child molestation have always been punished and then released into the community.

They were not registered. They did not have to "check-in" with law enforcement once they were no longer on probation or parole. Their presence in the community as former sexual offenders was largely unknown. They lived and worked wherever they could with no restrictions on where; there were no imaginary lines drawn around parks or schools, no prohibition against trick-or-treat or other Halloween activities, no requirement to notify law enforcement if their telephone number or place of employment changed.

According to the wisdom of today, re-offense should have been rampant. As each year more individuals, virtually all "first-timers," are released after serving a sentence for a sexual crime, the sheer mass of these felons unleashed on an unsuspecting public, with no one tracking or constantly monitoring them, must have resulted in ever-increasing numbers of victims.

Stranger-rape victims must have been piling up in the streets. Those suffering from sexual assault must have overwhelmed the hospital system. Children must have been kidnapped from schools and parks in record numbers on a daily basis.

But none of those things happened.

Statistics are hard to come by. A study done in New York City (see attached Journal of Criminal Law p. 324) the Mayor's Committee Report on Sex Offenses covering the years 1930-1939, reports, among others, these findings:
• There was no wave of sex crime in New York City during the 1930's. Although sex crimes receive more public attention than other types of crime, they represent only a small fraction of the sum total coming to the attention of the Policy Department.
• Most sex crimes are by first offenders...offenders charged with sex felonies are less inclined to have records than other types of felons.
• Sex crime is not habitual behavior for the great majority of convicted sex offenders. Police Department fingerprint records disclose that only 7%, 40 out of 555 offenders convicted of sex crimes in 1930, were again arrested on the same charge during the period from 1930 to 1941.

A Bureau of Justice report (also attached) published in 1997 gives this information on forcible rape:

• In 1976, 53 instances for each 100,000 female victim (male victims were not counted until later.)
• In 1980, 65 per 100,000
• In 1988, 66 per 100,000
• In 1995, 66 per 100,000

This was all pre-Megan's Law registries. Furthermore, children were not being assaulted or kidnapped from parks or schools. Schools had no security monitors, no screening devices; parents and other members of the public were, for the most part, free to come and go as they wished. Children played in parks, in the streets, in neighbors' yards, unmonitored and unharmed. The rare, rare occasion of a child being taken by a stranger – e.g., - Jaycee Dugard; Elizabeth Smart – was so remarkable that it dominated news cycles for months and even years.

The only recorded instance, ever, of a child being abducted and harmed on Halloween is the tragic case of Lisa French in Fond du Luc, Wisconsin, in 1973. The man who molested and killed her while she was trick or treating had no record of a previous sexual crime. To this day, in the United States, there it no other reported instance of a stranger molestation of a child during Halloween activities, neither before the proliferation of sexual offense registries and Halloween restrictions nor after.

Those convicted of sexual crimes did what those convicted of other crimes did; They served their sentences, struggled to gain employment on release, and assimilated into society as best they could. The only difference between former sexual offenders and those convicted of other offenses is that the re-offense rate for the former was and remains remarkably lower than for the later.

So what happened?

Jacob Wetterling happened (1987). Megan Kanka happened (1994). And years before them, although never proven to have been the result of a sexual crime, Adam Walsh had happened (1981).

These three children were all tragically murdered. Jacob and Megan were victims of sexual offenders. Their cases were rare, horrific, and catalytic.

In the years that followed, we saw the Jacob Wetterling Act (1994) that requires states to implement a sex offender and crimes against children registry, Megan's Law (1996) requiring law enforcement authorities to make information available to the public regarding registered sex offenders, and the Adam Walsh Act (2006) outlining a plethora of requirements pertaining to those on a sexual offense registry.

Individual states, not to be outdone by the federal government, rushed to implement further "protections." Restrictions against where a registrant could live, work, or even be were proposed and eagerly passed by the voting public as they were presented as essential to "keep our children safe."

And now, fueled by politicians who yearly propose new legislation further restricting the rights and movements of persons required to register and adding new offenses yearly, and by the media, who quickly discovered that "sex offender" in a header is automatic click-bait, the American public is convinced that the registry and all of the restrictions against and requirements of registered persons are the only things standing between them and wholesale rape and destruction of women and children."

"There will always be sexual offenders. Sadly, that will not change. Those who are convicted will serve their sentences and again become a part of society. An almost minuscule percentage of those will re-offend. The vast majority will not. And our modern-day attempts at monitoring and tracking and restricting and controlling every aspect of their lives will have little to nothing to do with whether they do or whether they don't."

Please consider abolishing any public sex offense registry. The further restrictions applied to my family in 2006 and 2011 has done enough damage to our already fragile existence. I'm not quite sure what the logic ever was by allowing the public to further punish any citizen of the United States after their sentencing in a court of law.

I hope this letter finds you in good health despite our current national crisis.

Warm Regards,

Kristen Kiesgen
13661 Penrose Ct.
Warren, MI 48088
313.978.4655

Melissa Sweet

From: Kristen Victor <kristen_victor@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2020 4:30 PM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: HB 5679 - Why the Registry is Failing

Good Afternoon Ms. Sweet,

A brief introduction about myself. I am a 32 year old wife to a Registered Offender (conviction in 2002 for a consensual act) and the mother to his two young children. Both of us are productive members of society with full-time jobs. We own our home home, live our life following the Lord and are hopeful for change.

The Sex Offender Registration Act needs to be abolished. I do not support HB 5679 and I do not support any public offender registry of any kind. Further, the 2006 and 2011 Amendments have violated our Constitutional rights as citizens of the United States....the land of the free. I wish the courts would recognize that the suppression of these rights is not only felt by the Registered Offenders, but have stifled the rights of their families and loved ones as well.

I am interested in knowing why a registry should exist for anyone with any crime. Or why is there only one crime with a registry for further punishment? Why don't we return to the way crimes were handled prior to the list? A time when judges and court systems decided what punishment fit, what restrictions were needed to protect the public and for what duration. A time when the sentencing was handled by actually hearing the stories with all facts and data received during individual trials and tailored the punishment to the individual. There will always be sexual offenders, sadly, that will not change. Those who are convicted will serve their sentences and again become a part of society. An almost minuscule percentage of those will re-offend, the vast majority will not. And our modern-day attempts at monitoring and tracking and restricting and controlling every aspect of their lives will have little to nothing to do with whether they re-offend or whether they don't.

The sex offender registry is still going strong, the numbers grow by the day, but it hasn't worked as a preventive tool. Instead, it's caught up thousands of people in a tightly woven net of legal sanctions and social stigma. Registered sex offenders are constrained by where, with whom, and how they can live - then further constrained by harassment or shunning neighbors and prejudice from employers.
Some of the people on the sex offender registry have had their lives ruined for a relatively minor or harmless offenses, for example, a statutory rape case in which the victim is a high school grade younger than the offender. Others are people like Brock Turner - people who have committed serious crimes that are nonetheless very different from the ones the registry was supposed to prevent, and which the registry might, in fact, make harder to fight. This happens often in the criminal justice system: Something designed for one purpose ends up getting used for something else.

Regardless of what kind of sex offense is committed, though, all perpetrators end up on the same list. Some of the activists who inspired registry laws to begin with, like Nancy Wetterling (the mother of Jacob Wetterling), ***have since turned against them***. Those advocates say they never intended for the registry to expand so far beyond child molesters - and that they certainly didn't intend for so many people to be registered for having consensual sex as teenagers, or for pulling down their siblings' pants as children. The federal Adam Walsh Act set a minimum period of time that offenders had to stay on the registry, depending on the seriousness of their offense. But plenty of states require offenders to stay on for longer — many of them for life.

Because of concern about child predators — and the sex offender registry is such a visible, readily available tool — sex offenders also have to deal with a raft of "collateral consequences": restrictions they face above and beyond their official punishment. There are plenty of people who, after completing terms in prison, report to law enforcement on a regular basis, are monitored, and live under restrictions on where they can go and whom they can live with. What makes the registry different is that it's public — you can't identify a parolee just by Googling him, but you can identify a sex offender. It's illegal for people to use sex offender registries for harassment. But they're encouraged to use them for social stigma.

The line is often crossed. The 2014 study found that more than 40 percent of offenders had been harassed in person; many had also gotten harassing mail or phone calls. Several offenders reported their families had been harassed or shunned. Registries don't do what they're supposed to do. The intended benefit of sex offender registries was supposed to be greater protection of children — with fewer opportunities for recidivist sexual predators to attack children, there were

supposed to be fewer sex crimes against them. That hasn't happened. The evidence on registries' ability to prevent sex crimes is mixed at best. The evidence that residential restrictions prevent sex crimes is nonexistent.

We know more about sex crimes now than policymakers did in 1996. The "stranger danger," child-focused predator isn't as common as people think. Sexual abuse at the hands of intimate partners and family members is far more common — and there's evidence that strict registry laws might make victims less likely to report their relatives as abusers, since they might not want the "permanent banishment" that entails.
Sex offender registries don't prevent crimes. They simply continually punish the citizens who have already paid the price for their crime. It's too harsh a punishment. Most people aren't sentenced to prison for life; their punishments are only supposed to last a certain amount of time. Having your life constrained and restricted even after your sentence is over might be a fact of life in our current criminal justice system, but that's not the way punishment is supposed to work.

I urge you to consider facts when making decisions that will affect roughly 44,000 registered offenders in the State of Michigan. These are PEOPLE, residents of our State, who have already been punished. They've served their time and are just trying to make their way in life.

Sincerely,

Kristen Kiesgen
Warren, MI
313.978.4655

Melissa Sweet

From: Kristen Victor <kristen_victor@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 9, 2020 10:17 AM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: Opposing HB 5679

Good Morning Ms. Sweet,

I am writing to advocate against HB 5679 as the wife of a Registered Sex Offender and a mother to a Registered offenders two young children.

Although this bill separates individuals as pre and post amendment individuals the proposal still falls seriously and dangerously short. What Legislators, lawyers and most sex offenders fail to realize is that Registered Sex Offenders are citizens of all states equally, and have guaranteed fundamentally protected rights, immunities and privileges. The Full Faith Clause applies in conjunction with The Privileges and Immunities Clause of Article IV, Section of the Constitution which states that "the citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states." This clause protects fundamental rights of individual citizens and restrains state efforts to discriminate both in-state citizens and out-of-state citizens. However, the Privileges and Immunities Clause extends not to all commercial activity, but only to fundamental rights. This is conjunction with The Commercial Clause describes and enumerated power listed in the United States Constitution (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3). A person cannot be held twice under any law and the privileges and immunities clause protects the person from double jeopardy and ex post facto and applies to all states. This is the entire basis of what brought Does v. Snyder I into the system.

- A tiered public registry that is based on the offense of conviction - *Does v. Snyder*, 834 F. 3d 696 (2016) - my husband was convicted in 2002. This assigned him as Tier III with no due process or risk assessment.
- Retroactive extension of registration periods - *Does v. Snyder*, 834 F.3d 696 (6th Cir. 2016) - this has taken my husbands obligation from 25 years to life.
- Extensive, in-person, immediate reporting requirements - *Does v. Snyder*, 834 F.3d 696 (2016); Does v. Snyder, 101 F. Supp.3d 722 (E.D. Mich. 2015) - this has violated our 1st Amendment right to remain silent and by doing so makes the Sex Offender Registration Law void
- 1,000-foot exclusion zones restricting where people live, work and "loiter" - *Does v. Snyder*, 834 F.3d 696 (6th Cir. 2016); Does v. Snyder, 101 F. Supp 3d 672 (E.D. Mich. 2015) - we purchased our family home in September 2017 unknowingly within a school safety zone which will force us to move. This has also stripped us of our right to exercise our religious beliefs by attending church. I was raised a devout Catholic and my husband a Lutheran, both having schools attached so we have been unable to attend their services.
- Loitering provision - *Does v. Snyder*, 101 F. Supp. 3d 672 (E.D. Mich. 2015) - we have had to change doctors offices, avoid coffee shops or certain shopping centers due to fear of "loitering" even though we had intent to be in places.
- Certain reporting requirements such as phones, vehicles, and email - *Does v. Snyder*, 101 F. Supp. 3d 672 (E.D. Mich. 2015) - not an original requirement for us to disclose such personal information. If we exercise our right to remain silent, he would be criminally charged.

In conclusion, I don't believe this bill begins to address to violations these Registrants have had to endure over the years. I urge you to think of these citizens and their Constitutional rights.
I thank you for your consideration in reading my concerns and wish you good health throughout having to meet under such extreme conditions.

Regards,

Kristen Kiesgen

Melissa Sweet

From: Kimberly Hall <kahstockbridge@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:07 PM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: HB 5679

Dear House Judiciary Committee Representatives,
I oppose HB 5679. This bill does not change much about Michigan's sex offense registration act, so the harm caused by Michigan's registry law will continue.

Please remember that the judge found Michigan's current registry law to be incomprehensible, and HB 5679 doesn't fix this problem. The following items are important to me in a revised SORA, such as: a private registry, shorter registration periods, e.g. a maximum of 20 years, no school exclusion zones (this was mentioned by the State Police as something they don't like in HB 5679), an early path off the registry if you can show you no longer pose a danger, or no registry for juvenile offenders.

Thank you for reading my testimony and I pray you will include the items mentioned in my testimony in the registry.

Regards,
Kimberly Hall
Stockbridge, Michigan 49285

Melissa Sweet

From: Henry DeGraaff <hkdeg@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:29 PM
To: Melissa Sweet; Rep. Lee Chatfield (District 107); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93)
Subject: HB5679

May 12, 2020

To the Michigan House Judiciary Committee
Concerning the hearing scheduled for May 13 concerning HB5679, dealing with the Sex Offender Registry.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
This is not the time to hold a hearing when, because of the pandemic and stay at home orders, citizens cannot attend to air their concerns. PLEASE delay any future hearings until stay at home orders are lifted.

To be brief and to the point, I have a good friend and former student who committed a sexual act with a minor and served 7 years for it. After release he was subjected to tether for quite a while, had to attend recovery meetings, and is now, several years later, still on the SOR. From what I hear, this bill keeps sex offenders on the registry forever and also introduces tethers for far too long. It is definitely not fair to make sex offenders who have done their time pay again for the rest of their lives.
I suggest that a convicted sex offender serve his/her time and, upon release, wear a tether for 2 years, and remain on the SOR for 7 more years. At the end of that time, they should be dropped from the registry entirely. If they repeat, they should remain on the register for life. Those who do not repeat should be given their lives back. They have paid their due to society. Your job is not to keep punishing people for the rest of their lives, but to give them justice, as well as keeping society safe.

Hank DeGraaff
hkdeg@yahoo.com

Melissa Sweet

From: Jamie Arsenault <solibondjarsenault@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:15 AM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: HB 5679

Hi Melissa,

I would like to formally indicate my opposition to HB5679 for the record. I feel this bill comes nowhere close to resolving the issues that were presented by Judge Cleland . Having public hearings while we are still under a stay at home order robs the people of there voice . There are 44000 people whose lives this bill affects and I very strongly believe that their voices will not be heard due to the pandemic and this bill is being run through without any thought to those affected .

Jamie Arsenault
989-751-7242

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Melissa Sweet

From: Annemarie Seymour <amseymour1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: Opposition of HB 5679

Good morning,
I am writing to let you know I oppose HB5679.
I believe a shorter registration period could greatly benefit people. Also, I believe juveniles should be given the chance to prove themselves and be removed from the list upon an uneventful completion of probation. My son, who was 18 at the time of his arrest, will be negatively impacted for the rest of his life by a consensual lapse in judgement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Annemarie Seymour

Melissa Sweet

From: Vi Vi <vv5122020@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 8:17 AM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: HB 5679 Opposition

Hello,

I oppose HB 5679. The current proposed bill did not change much about the current registration act, and the harm will continue.

The judge had found the current act to be incomprehensible and the current bill makes it even more so. Please consider my email as you review the proposed bill.

I am the spouse of someone on the registry, and I feel the harm and hurt every day. I encourage the new bill to look at removing those people who do not pose any danger, having a private registry, and removing school exclusion zones.

I appreciate the time you took to read this. As a lifelong Michigan citizen, please take my words into consideration.

Thank you,
Vicki V.

Melissa Sweet

From: Tammy Smith <ellymaytattoo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 4:33 PM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: HOUSE BILL 5679 Testimony

HOUSE BILL 5679

I am writing this letter in concern too the up coming hearings on house bill 5679 .

This public registry does nothing too protect public safety , the only thing it does is shame people , they are shunned on, harassed, it stops registrants and their families from equal opportunity too work, once they do get a job the police visit their work and they lose their jobs, law enforcement trespassing on our property at all hours of the day and night, it is wasting tax papers money,I know first hand, I have lived this life for well over 25 years now , My long time boyfriend has been subjected to this unconstitutional registry as have myself and his daughter for years now, It effects EVERYONE of us in a negative way , No one deserve too be subjected too a life of this kind of PUNISHMENT with no way off of the registry, Most of his punishment has been applied retroactively many years after he has served his time for the crime ,If someone is that much of a danger to the public, a judges job is too protect and sentence them accordingly, Not get out of jail after serving the sentence satisfactorily , Then be forced onto a registry for LIFE ,With out a judge ever even knowing he was forced onto this registry after his sentence .This is not expectable or justice or constitutional, Retroactive punishment is NEVER expectable. All we ask for is a chance to be a normal family again ,This law needs a total overhaul, Please consider the damage it is causing thousands of registrants and their families.

Thank You, Tammy Smith

Melissa Sweet

From: nancy vogrin <nancy.vogrin@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 2:50 PM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: I oppose HB 5679

Ms. Sweet,
Please make sure this is on record. I ask that you give the same consideration to this bill as Governor Whitmer is giving to the Covid 19 situation; "Please be assured that these decisions are being made **based on data, science, and feedback from medical experts across the country**." The evidence clearly shows recidivism is very low and these restrictive laws have not worked to keep the public safer. Create more meaningful legislation based on a scientific approach and focus on those who are at greater risk to re-offend. Spend the money saved from managing a smaller list to education and victims assistance programs. Allow those who are not a threat to society to become part of society again able to work, contribute and pay taxes. There is no point in continuing to prosecute those who have already paid their debt to society and it is illegal to do so.

It is not being soft on crime, its being SMART on crime.
Thank you,
Nancy E. Vogrin

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Melissa Sweet

From: Carleton Cook <carletoncook@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 12:46 PM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: HB5679

I AM OPPOSED TO HB 5679.
At the bottom of ANGER is INJUSTICE. It is only natural for people who are treated with injustice to experience anger. The more the anger, the more seeking of revenge, and more rationalizing the behavior of getting even. What a cycle. It starts with injustice and that is what we in Michigan are dealing with today.

Injustice causes anger humans were not designed to live under injustice. It produces anger and sets off a cycle of perceived injustice, to revenge or getting even, then rationalizing how you got even. This cycle is the normal lifestyle of people living under injustice.

If anger cannot be verbally expressed and resolved it is internalized causing physical disease or mental illness. Both f these cause untold expense to society. Many of the myths about sexual offenders are not in fact truth. There are approximately 500 on the Registry in St Clair County, the young parents here are fearful, almost paranoid about the safety of their children. Their belief is 500 individuals are after their children. Only 5% of the 500 are pedophiles, others on the list are no danger to their children. And what about the other 95%? Many committed their crimes before there was a list and have not reoffended. One man I work with disabled, mentally ill, fearful, committed his crime in the 1980's, when the list was established he was placed on it for 25 years, when the tier system was established he was extended for life. He was on Section 8 housing assistance when placed on lifetime, he lost his assistance. He has lost his marriage, children, job, and sanity. Would the administration that made that law stand up and admit they ruined this man's life for something detestable he did in 1980?

Please listen to people in the know, (I do not use the term experts normally) and see the unintended consequences to passing legislation. HB 5679 is an attempt to quickly keep the Federal Courts satisfied but HB 5679 will not do that, as it is now written. It will not comply with Judge Cleland's order and time will be running out. Judge Cleland has been gracious with Michigan having given 90 days previously, and the preset 60 days interrupted by the virus.

I understand the politics of the situation but, Republican and Democrat have skin in the game from their defiance of the Federal Court. It is almost a damned if you do and damned if you don't. These people under the injustice of Michigan's authorities are citizens with votes, 44,000 of them, their families and friends and advocates. Please do the right thing.

Melissa Sweet

From: delrio57@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 10:50 AM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: House bill 5679

My name is Dennis Krupnow and I am opposed to house bill 5679l .
My offence occurred in 1991 and I have been on the registry since 1995..I have never been in ny kind of trouble in any wa , before or since. 1991
My children are all older but over the years I have not been allowed to attend any school functions, sporting events or graduations of my grandchildren. It has made it very difficult developing a close relationship with them because all they knew is that I was not there to support them in their school acticities.

I will tell you now that because of a genetic degenerative eye disease I am blind. In 2019 my wife and I had decided that because of my vision loss it was time and that I would apply for a guide dog. In the spring of last year I forwarded my application, along with 2 doctors reports to Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester Michigan. The next week I received a reply from the school, a denial to my application. The following day I called the admissions director to find out why I had been denied and what were my alternatives. Simply, she told me that they do not allow people into their program who have been convicted of a sexual crime, no matter the circumstances or the time passed since the conviction. No acceptions or appeals.

She said that because of the ease of using the internet and the availability of personal information on the registry, they did not want to deal with one of the other clients finding me in a search and complaing to them.

I was dumbfounded. I pointed out the fact that their school had video's on youtube praising the work of inmated in Iowa and I believe Michigan that they use to train some of their dogs. The videos went on to descrine how in many cases the inmates did a better job of training their dogs than the civilian trainers they use.
Again the admissions director informed me that they allow people who have been convicted of assults, murder, drug dealers and thieves, but not people who have been convicted of a sexual offence.
This is the only guide dog school in Michigan. There are others on the east and west coasts, one in Florida, Mississippi, and if and when I apply to their program they are sure to question why I was regected by Leader Dogs in my home state.

I am pretty much out of options. This "life term" on the registry does more damage than yo can ever imagine. It places an extra burden on my wife that is both unessary and undeserved.

Again, please vote no on house bill5679

Sincerly
Dennis Krupnow

Melissa Sweet

From: Resa Taylor <resataylor2@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2020 2:27 PM
To: Rep. Lee Chatfield (District 107)
Cc: Melissa Sweet
Subject: HB5679

Dear Representative,

I oppose HB 5679.

HB 5679 has been scheduled for a hearing on May 13. It is egregious that our elected officials would schedule a public hearing for a bill that has a profound impact on tens of thousands of Michigan citizens during a serous pandemic. The health, safety, and welfare of your constituents should be paramount and traveling to a public meeting during this crisis is unsafe. There is no way for the public, for those impacted by this law, can meaningfully participate in this hearing and I am requesting that you postpone this hearing until such a time when it is safe and wise for public participation.

Several provisions of the Michigan Sex Offender Registry were found unconstitutional over four years ago, necessitating substantially amending the law. Lawyers and advocates have been working with the legislature since 2016 propose a fair and just alternative and there were many areas where we had agreement. HB 5679 incorporates none of those agreed-upon provisions and is inadequate at curing the constitutional flaws in Michigan's Sex Offender Registry Act.

As a mother to someone who is required by law to register for life, I can tell you that the harm caused from the registry out weights the benefits that it is supposed to be providing. The sex offender registry prevents people from being able to find adequate housing and employment that is essential to them becoming productive citizens in the communities that they are returning to when they have completed their punishment for their crime. The registry creates a group of moral leapers that are shunned by communities and forced to live in substandard housing or be homeless because of their past. Family members of registrants are harmed by the registry being public because they too are treated like outcasts for supporting their family member. Registrants and their families are threatened because of the crimes that they committed and live every day in fear for lives because of vigilante justice.

Please postpone any hearings on HB 5679 until such a time when the public can meaningfully participate.

Sincerely,
Resa Wickings

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Melissa Sweet

From: bwakma 1 <bwakma@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2020 2:02 PM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: Opposition to HB 5679

I am writing on behalf of my nephew Mark Anderson who is a registrant. My brother is Kim Anderson who gave testimony in this matter. Since completing his sentence, Mark has been continuously gainfully employed, has supervisory responsibilities, and is now considered an essential employee. He has been married since 2012 and has a young son who starts kindergarten in the fall.

My brother sent me materials from the court and ACLU which I have reviewed along with some additional reading. Based on what I've read and additional insight from my brother, I must express my opposition to HB 5679. Thank you.

Boyd W. Anderson

Melissa Sweet

From: Robert Camp <robert_camp_99@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:09 AM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: HB 5679

Dear Representatives,

What if you were a high school boy and you made a poor choice. We all have made poor choices. His choice was made public and has remained so for 15 years because of SOR. His was a CSC4 and the punishment does not fit the crime. It is reminiscent of the Scarlet Letter. There is so much shame and damage with SOR. How do you recover when you are on a list for 25 years? How do you move on when there is nowhere to move on to? Your life is destroyed and you are just a teenager. You do not date. You have no friends. You are depressed. You no longer laugh or smile. You isolate yourself because you know that everyone who looks at you sees SEX OFFENDER. You have no future. You have no hope. You just exist.

This is what it is like for our friends son. We have witnessed him wither away. He is a kind soul with untapped creativity and unused potential. He is a good human being that does no harm. Would you want this for your son? Please step up to JUSTICE and have mercy on those who do not deserve this unjust punishment. You have an opportunity to do the right thing. Please make right the wrong. You know it is the honorable thing to do.

Thank you,

Barb Camp
616-822-2118
2203 Godwin SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49507

Melissa Sweet

From: brian woodman <brian61473@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 3:24 PM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: Written testimony

I'm not capable of testifying in person but I want to give u my written testimony instead. Here is my written testimony as follows: Having the sex offender registry in Michigan is just as useless as having a Personal Protection Order (PPO) served on a physical abuser. Why? Ask any woman who has had their abuser served with a PPO then after he was served he came over and still abused her. A piece of paper saying that person can't be near their victim is the last thing on their mind if they want to go abuse that woman bad enough especially if their abuser is either drunk, high on drugs, or not mentally stable at the time. By the time the police get there after the physical abuse had occurred it will be too late to protect that woman. I say this because my sister had been with abusive men and one of them knocked her through a shower glass door with my niece in her arms. I was there when it happened. So what does this have to do with the sex offender registry? Well, comparing it to the sex offender registry, if a sex offender is on the registry and he or she wants to still sexually assault a child or an adult bad enough, being on the registry won't stop them from sexually assaulting someone if they want to do it bad enough. By the time the police get there it would be to late after the sexual assault occurred.

Therefore, this is why we don't need a sex offender registry in Michigan. If we continue to have it and want to protect children and adults from being sexually assaulted then we also should have a Domestic Violence registry like New York and Texas was talking about. Also, have an Elder Abuse registry to protect the elderly and have a Murder registry like Illinois has. If we r gonna protect people then all should be protected from any harm whether it is physical or sexual abuse. If not then that should be considered as discrimination for ignoring other people from wanting to be protected from domestic violence or elder abuse. Thank you for allowing my written testimony.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Melissa Sweet

From: spiderlockhart52@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 3:17 PM
To: Beau LeFave; Rep. Brian Elder (District 96); Rep. Daire Rendon (District 103); David LaGrand; Rep. Diana Farrington (District 30); Rep. Douglas Wozniak (District 36); Rep. Gary Howell (District 82); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Kyra Harris Bolden (District 35); Rep. Lee Chatfield (District 107); Melissa Sweet; Rep. Ryan Berman (District 39); Rep. Steven Johnson (District 72); Rep. Tenisha Yancey (District 1); Rep. Vanessa Guerra (District 95)
Subject: Be Better

Frankly, given the relative size of Sex Offender Registry in Michigan, we should all be embarrassed. Someone is going to start calling us "Michissippi". There was some excellent testimony last week regarding the current HR Bill and why it is lacking. Given the vast numbers – well beyond the registrants themselves- of individuals impacted by the current and proposed ineffective SOR, I am asking the Michigan legislature to stand up and do what's right, not just what's expedient.

Do take a serious look at proposed alternative plans and sensible, evidenced based policing here. Let's put Michigan back in the forefront of civil life in America.

Hopefully,

Harry Lockhart

Melissa Sweet

From: Kristin Anderson <kma917@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 1:46 PM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: I oppose HB5679

Good afternoon,
I, Kristin M Anderson, oppose HB5679
Thank you. Stay safe.

Melissa Sweet

From: Kim Anderson <anderson-329@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 1:09 PM
To: Rep. Graham Filler (District 93)
Cc: Melissa Sweet
Subject: HB 5679

Representative Filler,

I oppose HB 5679 for the following reasons:

- it is offense-based rather than risk-based
- no exit provisions
- continued vagueness in school zone definition
- tiers remain although not in the public registry
- registries in general are ineffective in enhancing public safety
- registry is expensive to maintain - taxpayer dollars are better spent elsewhere such as roads and infrastructure
- registry is harmful to families of registrants; especially their children

Melissa Sweet

From: nancy vogrin <nancy.vogrin@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 11:44 AM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: HB5679 REFORM

Dear Ms Sweet,
I was on the Wednesday Zoom session regarding HB 5679 and felt the speakers did a very good job of explaining why this bill is unacceptable and needing reform. I certainly hope you saw that, too. You must ask yourself, what is the reason or goal of this bill? If it is to protect the public against predators, it is an inadequate way to determine those truly at risk of re-offending. If it is to continue to penalize those convicted of the myriad of crimes for which they get added to the list, that is illegal and simply not the way we do things in America.

The current law has bloated the list to 44,000 individuals, the majority of whom are not at risk of re-offending as **PROVEN** study after study. The public views all of these people as 'lepers' to society, preventing their ability to heal with their families and hold down jobs to support them, as well. My husband was convicted of two misdemeanors in 2000 with one year of probation. Time served. So why is he now on the list as a tier 2 for 25 years?

This is not about being soft on crime, it is being SMART on crime. Show the courage to do the right thing. We are looking for **REFORM.**

Thank you again for hearing me out and I am very proud to be in a country where we have the ability to work with our elected officials to continue to improve the country in which we live.
Nancy Vogrin

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Melissa Sweet

From: Cindy <tennisnut11@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 10:55 AM
To: Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Melissa Sweet
Subject: I oppose HB 5679

Dear Representative,

I oppose HB 5679. There are many reasons including the impact on the families. The children of a registered Sex Offender are stigmatized with the same burden of the registry. They are shamed, bullied, and isolated during their school day and omitted from play dates. Please consider the families and the fact that the offender has paid their dues to society through the MDOC, including extensive counseling and re-entry protocols.

Thank you,
Cynthia Anderson

Sent from my iPhone

Melissa Sweet

From: Cindy <tennisnut11@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 10:53 AM
To: Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Melissa Sweet
Subject: **NO to HB 5679**

Dear Sir or Madame,

I oppose HB 5679. There are many reasons including the impact on the families. The children of a registered Sex Offender are stigmatized with the same burden of the registry. They are shamed, bullied, and isolated during their school day and omitted from play dates. Please consider the families and the fact that the offender has paid their dues to society through the MDOC, including extensive counseling and re-entry protocols.

Thank you,
Cindy A.

Sent from my iPhone

Melissa Sweet

From: Anderson Family <anderson329@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 8:45 PM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: I oppose HB 5679

Dear Representative,

I oppose HB 5679. There are many reasons including the impact on the families. The children of a registered Sex Offender are stigmatized with the same burden of the registry. They are shamed, bullied, and isolated during their school day and omitted from play dates. Please consider the families and the fact that the offender has paid their dues to society through the MDOC, including extensive counseling and re-entry protocols.

Thank you,
Cynthia Anderson

Sent from my iPhone

Melissa Sweet

From: M ANDERSON <thorsigfrid@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 4:51 PM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: Fwd: HB 5679

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **M ANDERSON** <thorsigfrid@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, May 7, 2020, 4:49 PM
Subject: HB 5679
To: <Grahamfiller@house.mi.gov>

HB 5679 is still unconstitutional, as it does not correct ex post facto law violations. SORA is a punishment. Everyone convicted after its October 1, 1995 enactment has it on their court transcripts at sentencing that SORA is part of their sentence.
No one convicted prior to October 1, 1995, regardless of their length of sentence can be legally bound to the SORA, without violating the individual's Constitutional Right against Ex Post Facto Law enforcement.
The Constitution prohibits the increasing of punishment "after" sentencing. To allow it makes it possible for Legislators to amend and increase sentencing guidelines for any, and all, crimes, then applying them retroactively to anyone still serving their sentence.
Legislators need to do this legally. The SORA needs to return to the wording of the original enacted Bill, and not apply to "anyone" convicted prior to October 1, 1995, regardless of the length of their sentence, or the jurisdiction they're under.

Respectfully,
M.A.

Melissa Sweet

From: tjskzoo@charter.net
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 3:34 PM
To: Melissa Sweet

I oppose HB 5679 because it fails to meet the requirements of the Federal Court order. Anyone convicted before the original law was passed should be removed from the SOR public listing and any police-only listing or it is an Ex-Post Facto violation of the constitution.

Signed,
Thomas Stockbridge

Melissa Sweet

From: Julian Jones <ernestjones1021@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 12:40 PM
To: Melissa Sweet

I oppose HB 5679.

Ernest Earlee Jones

Melissa Sweet

From: Robert H <nomorefelony@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 12:59 PM
To: Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Melissa Sweet
Subject: Pending/Proposed HouseBills(etc)

Hello. I am writing you to ask for your help with trying to amend the pending sexoffender registry bills, or ask you to help propose a new bill (any sponsor will help) To allow those with Romeo Juliet convictions to either expunge (they cant presently, only can try to get off registry) or to pass a TRUE RomeoJuliet law to stop making it a crime at all (the way that many state have recently), or at least make it a low court misdemeanor with its own label (not just csc which looks like rape on rapsheets) the way that WI has recently.

Please help. This impacts many statewide including many clients of mine. Thank you.

-Attorney Robert Haertel(P79611).

Melissa Sweet

From: Andrew Tweedy <atweedy@wccnet.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 10:38 AM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: Written testimony for 5679 hearing (MISOR)

Hi my name is Andrew Tweedy and I am writing in regards to the SOR hearing, and I would like to give my testimony and story if possible. I got charged with Attempt CSC 3rd degree in 2004 for having intercourse with a girl that I never met before. Like I stated, i never met her or her friends that were brought to my apartment. I woke up in the middle of the night to a bunch of people in my apartment (my roommate invited them) I then had sex with her and so did my friend too. I got charged and was told about registering that I would have 10-15 years to register. I took the plea and was given 5 years probation. I was on the registry and then out of nowhere I'm put as a tier 3 and told I'm on for life. I have finally found a good job. I own my home, and am married and have 2 children. I also am in my 2nd year of college, but it has been terribly difficult due to the SOR. I have been denied jobs, housing, schooling and ridiculed at every turn. I understand I had to pay for what I've done but when does it end? I am on the registry with guys that have raped and murdered woman, or that have molested children, and it's totally unfair to place me in the same category. I would like to give my testimony if possible to help right these wrongs. My # is (517)480-4245 and you have my email if you could reply to me. Thank you for your time

Melissa Sweet

From: Burke Bardwell <BurkeBardwell@alumni.fullsail.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 12:22 PM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: MI SORA PROTEST HB 5679

My name is Burke Bardwell
I have been on the MI SORA since 1994 I have committed no new offense I am married as of today 14 years I have an 11 year old and a 4 year old by my wife. I have been threatened I have had people come to my home because my address is listed. The list updates my image but doesn't take into consideration that I was 17 at the time of sentencing, I am now 43 years old! I had only 1 job with DTE Energy and was fired because of my SORA restrictions this is extremely punishing to not just me but my whole family. The SORA has and constantly places us all in danger and being a felon how am I legally supposed to protect my home and family.

Respectfully,

Burke Bardwell V

Youtube.com/SeventheGeneral

Melissa Sweet

From: Lynn Jackson <lynn.jackson@kentcountymi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 11:48 AM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: Urgent: Stop Hearing on HB 5679

Melissa Sweet,

Dear Representative:

It is egregious that our elected officials would schedule a public hearing for a bill that has a profound impact on tens of thousands of Michigan citizens during a serious pandemic. The health, safety, and welfare of your constituents should be paramount, and traveling to a public meeting during this crisis is unsafe. There is no way for the public, for those impacted by this law, to meaningfully participate in this hearing and I am requesting that you postpone this hearing until such a time as it is safe and wise for public participation.

Several provisions of the Michigan Sex Offender Registry were found unconstitutional over four years ago, necessitating substantially amending the law. Lawyers and advocates have been working with the legislature since 2016 propose a fair and just alternative and there were many areas where we had an agreement. HB 5679 incorporates none of those agreed-upon provisions and is inadequate at curing the constitutional flaws in Michigan's Sex Offender Registry Act.

Please postpone any hearings on HB 5679 until the public can safely and meaningfully participate.

Lynn Jackson
lynn.jackson@kentcountymi.gov
1565 Cedar St. NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503