

Dear Ms. Sweet,

Please enter into the record American Friends Service Committee's Michigan criminal Justice Program's formal opposition to HB 5679.

As an organization that works directly with thousands of currently incarcerated and formally incarcerated people we understand intimately the pitfalls and obstacles that a public registry creates for people. It is hard enough to acclimate back to the world with a felony record tied to your life. Having to register as a "sexual offender" does virtually nothing to protect the public. Rather, it creates a deeper scarlet letter on someone's life and causes undue hardship.

There is nothing evidenced based about public registration. It does nothing to create safety for adults or children in our communities. We know that **community accountability and acceptance** (*not ostracization and isolation*) create safety and less likelihood of recidivism.

Further, **HB 5679 DOES NOT ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF THE COURTS**

Multiple legal experts testified that this bill does not resolve the constitutional concerns which caused much of our current registry to be ruled unconstitutional.

This law is ill-advised and ill-informed. It will be challenged yet again and waste even more precious resources, precious especially in a time of COVID 19 when resources are strapped. MI state employees are being forced on furlough and MI lawmakers insist on pushing through costly and onerous laws that do nothing to protect the people of MI.

Sincerely,

Natalie Holbrook, Program Director

American Friends Service Committee

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