

Melissa Sweet

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 1:43 PM
To: Melissa Sweet; Rep. Lee Chatfield (District 107); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Beau LaFave (District 108); Rep. Diana Farrington (District 30); Rep. Gary Howell (District 82); Rep. Steven Johnson (District 72); Rep. Daire Rendon (District 103); Rep. Ryan Berman (District 39); Rep. Douglas Wozniak (District 36); Rep. David LaGrand (District 75); Rep. Vanessa Guerra (District 95); Rep. Brian Elder (District 96); Rep. Tenisha Yancey (District 1); Rep. Kyra Harris Bolden (District 35); Rep. James Lower (District 70); Nick Capone
Subject: HB 5679 Written Testimony

Dear Representatives,

First of all I would like to thank you for giving me to testify and tell my story. My name is [REDACTED] I have lived most of my life in Dearborn, MI. I graduated from Wayne State University in 2004 with bachelor degree in computer science and have been working in the automotive industry since 2012. I would like to layout how the registry impacted my life, my future, my family, the people I care about as followed:

1. I have been on food stamp assistance program from 2001 till 2009, due to the fact I am on the registry
2. I was able to expunged my conviction in 2009, and was able to obtain a job within specialty. However, I was unfortunate to leave switch or quit two jobs in two separate incidents.
 - a. An employee found out that, out that I am on the sex registry. I was told to quit before he let everyone knows including my boss. I had to leave job, because I did not want to deal with the drama and being intimidated by anyone at work.
 - b. Thereafter, I finding a found a new job, and I was very happy with it. Unfortunately, I was sexually abused by a coworker, and given the fact I am on the registry, I did not want to report the incident to my boss and make a headline of myself. I decided to leave my job and not having to deal it.
3. I have been living with my parents since I got convicted back in 2004. There is basically zero chance to be able to secure a rental house, all it takes is a simple search on Google for your name to popup even though my record has been expunged. For the sake of trying, I submitted a rental application through "Checkr.com". I was clear on background check, but was listed under sex offender.
4. The amount of stress that I have to deal with is unbearable. Having to deal with all SORA requirements, making sure I am reporting on time, consent changes to the registry, going back and forth from life registration to 25 years, then back to life. I am trying to cope with my stress and live my life day by day.
5. The registry prevented me from completing my education. I did not want to go back to the university, reporting that I am sex offender, and being labeled as sex offender
6. Eggs were thrown at my parents house, and windows were hit by rock couple of times, just because I live with my parents.

7. Missed a lot of opportunities to advance my career in my current job. My current job requires traveling domestically and internationally, however because of the frequent reporting that I have to deal with, I had to reject those offers.

Currently I am working with well known automotive company as product development engineer, but I do not know how long this will last before someone find out about me. This is a constant fear that I am dealing with on daily basis. All I am asking for is an opportunity to be integrated within the society like any other citizen, or another chance to be given once again. I do not want to minimize what had happened in the past. I clearly understand I made a mistake, I got punished for what I did, attended sex offender treatment, and got my record expunged. I have been on the registry for 15 years law abiding citizen with no problems. Shortening the registry, or removing people with expunged record, or even use risk-base registry are meaningful changes that we all seek, for you to keep track of dangerous people, and justice for the people that paid their debt to society and want to move on with their life.

I would like to thank you again for this opportunity. I got to listen to today's hearing, and have high hope of this committee to bring a real change to the registry that serve justice and safety to all of us as Michiganders.

Regards,
