

Dear Committee Clerk Melissa Sweet:

Would you please provide the committee members, of HB 5679, the following addendum to our first testimony sent on May 5, 2020:

Dear Representatives:

My wife and I oppose HB 5679. This bill does not change much about Michigan's sex offense act, so the harm caused by Michigan's registry law will continue. U.S. District Court Judge Robert Cleland found Michigan's current registry law to be incomprehensible, and HB 5679 makes it even more so. This bill will not fix the problem. The following three things that are important to us in a revised SORA: Change the registry from public to private, have no school exclusion zones, and have a term limit on SORA, where someone can be removed after a period of time say maybe five (5) years.

Our final point is just because the neighbor is not on the registry, doesn't mean they have never committed a sex offense. The majority of sex offenses are committed by someone the person knows and trusts. The sex registry is making the public feel that the only people they have to fear is those on the registry.

We want to thank all the Representatives for taking time, out of their day, to read our testimony.

Sincerely,

Joseph and Christie Gentner