

I know this is a very long note but I beg you to read it in it's entirety. My point is not to play on your emotions but to realize how many registrants have ended up unfairly on a public Registry and how it has affected them and their futures. I plead with all of you on the Judicial committee to oppose HB 5679. I am the mother of a registrant and have watched this Registry forever change his life. He had and still has so much to offer society. I would never believe what has happened to him could occur in the United States if it had not happened before my eyes. Right here in the land of the free. He graduated from University of Michigan with a GPA of 3.6 in Biology. He graduated number 1 in his high school class from a large school. He was an Eagle Scout. He was very involved in travel and high school soccer. He learned the importance of giving back to society through his church and the Boy Scouts He was in process of studying for the MCAT exam and applying and interviewing for Medical School. He was on top of the world. He always said that he had no time for girls. He has 4 brothers and very little experience with girls at all. He was socially naive in respect to the dating scene. He was away at school and started a texting relationship with a high school girl. While home on break he met her at a movie and touched her breast outside of her clothing. They never had intercourse and very rarely even saw each other. They agreed to wait until she was 18 to date per her fathers demands He is a pastor. They continued with a texting relationship for 3.5 years. One month prior to her 18th birthday she sent my son a couple nude photos of herself. He did not ask for them, she just sent them. He never shared them and never would. They broke up just prior to her graduation so she could go to prom and more fully participate in graduation activities. Her father found out they had been "going together" with a texting only relationship. At least that's what they called it. He was furious that he knew nothing about it. He knew people in the police department and the prosecutor's office. My son was called in for questioning. We were stupid, naive, law abiding citizens. I drove him to the police department to "clear things up". Unbeknownst to us her father had lied in his statement about what had happened accusing him of oral sex. The so called victim had been manipulated in the past by her father by threatening total disownment of her if she did not do as he said. He would go into detail what this would mean for the rest of her life. She was questioned at home with her father outside the door. She knew she had better agree with his story and did so. She was not under oath. My son was brutally questioned at PD for 1.5 hours. On a side note the police officer questioning him was fired several months later for photos that he had on his own phone. I have been told by officers that this officer was the most brutal in questioning and did not even earn the respect of his fellow officers. The victim did state my son treated her well, there was never any force or violence of any kind. We did not know the accusations for a long time as could not see the police report until shortly before proceedings started. We were under premise that charges were a result of photos on phone and he would be charged with possession of child pornography. They took her phone and never found them but my son had admitted them to police. As I said we were stupid and naive. She was just shy of 18 when sent. Our attorney let us listen to several messages from prosecutors office. One said they did not want to charge him but her father was making several visits per week to prosecutors office and causing a ruckus regarding situation. He accused my son of stalking her and going out with other young girls. He was LYING again and portraying my son as a predator. The prosecutor would call attorney and refer to him as "your doctor wannabe client" and said he better quit going out with young girls. We were enraged and even wanted to call in witnesses to situations he was accusing him. But again we "kept quiet and laid low" on our attorneys advice as this father was crazy and prosecutors would see through this. His stories could not have been further from the truth. My son was in an almost catatonic state rarely leaving his bedroom and would not talk to anyone. My husband and I would actually come home from work several times a day to check on him as we felt he was suicidal. My son passed a lie detector test of which we know is inadmissible in court. But these results convinced father to drop charges from CSC 1 to CSC 4 on a plea deal. They agreed to drop charges regarding child pornography from the pictures. The victim never showed up for any meetings per information from a retiring prosecutor. We were encouraged to take this CSC 4 charge And that prosecutors office was getting impatient and would very soon drop plea deal and he would be faced with other charges also with a possible prison sentence. He would be a multiple felon with a separate charge for each photo. Attorney met privately with me as he knew I was enraged but encouraged me to go along with this as my son "would not last one day in prison" He said he would never be the same if sent to prison due to his naive nature. When we first agreed our attorney had misadvised us and told us that this was not a registry offense. We were very upset when he found out and shared this with us. His was a high court misdemeanor charge. The saddest day of my life was when I had a son placed on the Sex Offender Registry. I felt like a total failure. I had worked so hard as a mother to raise decent law abiding caring sons. I had spent countless hours volunteering at their schools, spent 20 years as a Scout leader and mentor, and involved in teaching young people at our church. All while working part time as a Registered Nurse. I was devastated as well as my entire family all of who supported my son. I was truly embarrassed as people thought he had to have done something much worse to be placed on a public Registry. I would have thought the same. After all we live in the United States, land of the free. There is no freedom living on the Registry. He was sentenced to 2

months in jail but was released on judges order in 10 days. His cell mates thought he was a police officer and even called him "Officer" At one hearing judge even said I do not agree with any of this including 5 years probation for this young man. He threw his arms in the air and said " I am bound by state mandates!" He served 5 years probation with all 3 probation officers vowing to help him if any way they could He attended a lengthy Sex Offender class with all other participants guilty of child rape. He was appalled and disgusted by these men and understood that there may be some value in a Registry for these registrants. None of them could understand why he was there. He continues to suffer abuse at the hands of this Registry. He has worked ever since in construction with a boss who liked him and allowed him to keep his job within the constraints of frequent reporting for probation and the Registry. We understand the difficulty of keeping a job on the Registry. He has to not go on jobs or leave when he discovers that a job is near a school even if closed for summer. Kudos to his boss for keeping him on. He is living his life for expungement but discovered after 5 years there was a law recently passed that now forces him to wait 5 years after end of probation. It used to be 5 years after release from jail. This was snuck through with the bill that allowed more people to file for expungement. Someone's secret agenda. But expungement does no good if you remain on the Registry. It makes no sense to me that you can be on a public Registry if you have been granted an expungement and now have a clean record. Absurd!!

Actually laws have changed and if he was now charged with same charges he would only get 2 years probation and not be on Registry. This does not apply to him now as this only applies at time of sentencing. His future has already been defined by this Registry as he has given up his life time dreams of becoming a physician. He had spent all his summers working at hospital as a surgery orderly. He at first thought no girl would ever want him in light of being on the Registry as families also suffer but he had met a young lady who accepted him and has even accompanied him in the past with testimony before the Judicial committee. They were engaged and watched their wedding date come and go. She passed away in September exactly one year after diagnosis of a leukemia type blood cancer. She suffered intensely. He had quit his job to care full time for her mostly in Detroit area. He took such good care of her. He feels strongly that cancer research is his calling but realizes this dream will never come true as long as he remains on a public Registry. He would be very good as had spent the last few years researching cancer treatment. Many doctors he met thought he was a doctor with his knowledge. Prior to her passing he was accepted into U of M MBA program. He had to appear before several boards and turn in many court records to be accepted. He figures if he can't get a decent job in his situation he will start his own business. He has worked so hard and continues to advocate for change. He admits he used poor judgment by continuing a relationship that her father was against. He says he barely recognizes this young person looking back. He accepts responsibility for poor judgment but does not feel that he should be punished as a criminal for the rest of his life

As his mother I am still in disbelief that this public Registry exists for those with these types of situations which are frequently a result of poor judgment as a young person. Scientific studies support change. I have lost faith in our legal and legislative systems. I have worked hard not to let this define me as I have done so much good in the past mainly with young people. My heart is broken. No mother should have to watch someone on Halloween stand at the end of her sons driveway yelling and screaming for no one to go to his house trick or treating as he is on Registry. I watched him stand there listening and his fiancé crying with goodie bags in hand. This is only one thing I have witnessed. Please do not allow HB 5679 to pass as it now stands. Thank you so very much if you are still reading. I am sobbing as I write this. Sandy Goldberg