

May 13, 2020

House Judiciary Committee

Dear members,

We would like to add to the testimony submitted on 5/6 on our daughter's behalf, and the impact of the registry on her life and ours.

HB5679 is a bad piece of legislature. It does not address most of the areas that were just ruled unconstitutional. It is burdensome and punitive.

Our daughter, as previously described to you, is developmentally disabled and has autism. She is easily manipulated and very trusting of all people. In July 2004 she took a plea to 750.520C1A and was placed on a lifetime registry. Since that day, her life, and the lives of her family, ceased to have meaning. The last 16 years have been hell.

As a person with disabilities, it was always hard for her to make friends. She had two close friends for many years – until she was placed on the registry. Her friends stopped having anything to do with her because of the stigma of the registry. She had a low income job working in a dry cleaners. She was fired because of the registry. She has never been able to find employment since then, because of the registry. She lost her home because of the registry.

Due to all the restrictions and punitive requirements of the current SORA, our daughter has just given up on living. She stays in a room in the basement, has no interest in anything “because nothing will ever change. I have no friends, no job, just nothing. I wish I could just die”.

It is time for a complete overhaul of Michigan's registry. It serves no purpose, it doesn't protect Michigan citizens. The rate of recidivism for sex offenders is evidenced based to note is the lowest percentage among any felonies or crimes. It ostracizes all the people on the registry and prevents them from becoming contributing citizens in this state.

Please, take the time to do your homework and look at all the evidence based data that has been placed in your hands. Talk to the people from all the different disciplines who have done the research. Do what is right to protect the citizens of Michigan and provide the people on the registry some hope that their lives are meaningful. The registry needs to be risk based, no tiers, and abolish the lifetime registry. Provide a path for people to be removed from this stigma. The registry should be available only to law enforcement. The public registry provides no safety to Michigan citizens.

Thank you for taking time to read the submitted testimonies.

Sincerely,

Bruce and Candace Cline