

House Judiciary Committee Clerk Melissa Sweet

I am writing to oppose House Bill 5679 which re-writes Michigan's Sex Offense registry and makes our communities less safe, while punishing people excessively. I represent Church of the Servant in Grand Rapids, MI and Living Water Ministry Network which provides programming and housing for people who have come "home" after serving prison time for CSC convictions.

### **1. HB 5679 MAKES MICHIGAN LESS SAFE**

Public registration has been shown by research to increase recidivism.

- Public registration creates a false sense of security. The vast majority of sexual offenses are committed by first time offenders and by friends or family members, not by people on the registry.
- Enforcement of onerous registration requirements wastes law enforcement resources and prevents them from working to solve crimes.
- Registration makes Michigan unsafe for everyone forced to register.

### **2. 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.

### **3. HB 5679 IS NOT EVIDENCE-BASED REFORM**

The registry was created in 1994. At the time it was a simple law enforcement database with minimal regulations. It was mostly used to assist in investigations. After 26 years, there is still no peer-reviewed evidence proving it makes us safer and at the same time there is a growing mountain of evidence that registries don't work and make Michiganders less safe.

We believe if Michigan is going to constrain the liberty of over 44,000 citizens, it should be for evidence-based reasons.

Thank you for your response to this request.

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