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I am writing in opposition to HB 5679 regarding the sex offender registry. I am not personally impacted by this bill but have observed the devastating impact on some of the registrants and their families. Procedures such as the school exclusionary rule keep families apart when they could actually be an important part of providing resources which truly promote community safety.

A public registry creates the tendency to isolate for fear of being harassed. This creates unnecessary fear on both the public and the registrant. You also need to realize that a registry can tell the public what someone was convicted of, but not any response to treatment or how that person is dealing with life today. In addition, registries harm families where incest is an issue since family members may be reluctant to turn in someone and end up on a registry.

For these reasons, I am opposed to HB 5679.

Sincerely,

JAMES PRAGER MSW