

Dear Committee,

Hi my name is Kierra and I and the wife of Daniel Wright as well as the mother of both of his children with a third on the way. He and I began as friends in September of 2006, and after a while of getting to know each other I invited him over. He was the only guy that I had met whom I had felt comfortable enough around and trusted enough to come to my home. We spent hours talking that day and during our conversation he told me that he was a convicted sex offender. I couldn't have imagined that the man before me would have ever done anything of that nature. I have always seen in him a gentle, loving, caring person and to this day that remains. I commended his honesty and was honored that he felt comfortable confiding in me. Dan has always provided a safe space for me, anytime I needed him he was there no matter what. I began to love him right away and I knew how strong I would have to be in order to be his life partner. Having to see him go through depression and trying my best to motivate him to pursue his goals, crying with him and wiping them tears from his eyes and telling him that God has the last say in his life while hoping God doesn't let him down. There are and have been many days that I have been scared for his life. There was a time that our home was egged and even now we are constantly harassed by the ordinance police and neighbors in our community who just want us gone based on what they believe they know about who my husband is.

I have seen my husband be subjected to control and manipulation by people who decided to turn on him when they could not control him or get their way. People have literally threatened to lie on him because they know how his past will affect his credibility. He constantly worries about what others whom he considers friends will do if he makes them unhappy or if he has a fallout with them for whatever reason. The lack of trust he has for people has led to him isolating himself often and not maintaining friendships. He is even reluctant to try and build meaningful relationships with his own family.

I am afraid that my husband will somehow violate the registry and end up back in prison due to a misunderstanding or just by him becoming a target. I'm afraid for my kids who attend school, worried if they can make and keep friends. I worry about their feelings from not understanding why dad can't participate in certain aspects of their lives. I remember Dan being scared for us to ever have kids in the first place, but we did, and he is honestly the best father I have ever seen in my life. I mean that from the bottom of my heart. Our kids adore him, he often feels bad that he can not provide for us the way that he feels we deserve due to his past affecting his ability to provide. He gets really down about it and he often feels like me and the kids are better off without him. He and I have had some time apart and I know there is no one else better for us than him.

It would be nice to live where we want, it would be nice if he had a better opportunity to provide for us, it would be nice if the time that he served to rehabilitate himself led to a real second chance, it would be nice if the punishment fit the crime, it would be nice if he could actually pay his debt to society without there being an endless balance. It would be nice if Civil rights and fair justice for all people were undeniable regardless of if they were favorable or not.

My husband was 16 years old at the time of his sexual offense he could not even comprehend his sentencing. It is like his life was taken away before it began. He has never even had the opportunity to be able to vote. Most importantly, an opportunity for reform and public safety in our communities needs to exist. At minimum, it is necessary and just to proceed in a way that is constitutional. The Pledge of Allegiance states that there should be "liberty and justice for ALL".

Sincerely,

Kierra W.