

Joshua & Jami Shea
1701 Park Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49004
(989) 826-2128

To Whom It Does Concern:

We need **constructive changes** to the Sex Offender Registry

- 1) **More effective registry**, managed by a board of experts who can evaluate policies, follow studies and evidence. There is a Center for Sex Offender Management, National Center on Sexual Behavior of Youth and professionals who can help set standards; including the Professional Advisory Board (PAB) and the Coalition for a Useful Registry (CUR).
 - a. These professionals need to effective risk management by someone who is educated in specialized training using updated and valid risk assessment tools with both historic and empirical data & clinical methods based on facts and not on emotions to show the likelihood of an individual being a repeat offender. My husband remains on the SOR though he can legally say he has had no criminal convictions...there are many problems with this; including but not limited to his reputation that cannot be 'reversed' in the public eye, nor can he get the time back being involved with our 3 children as they are shy to participate in school activities since their reputations are affected through the public registry. My husband has lost time being a parent in our children's education and the restrictions are vague and interfere with his rights to parent, attend church (near school property), and live as the upstanding, law-abiding citizen he is and has always been.
- 2) Anyone who has no criminal record from having received a set-aside conviction, expungement or successfully completed the Homes Youthful Trainee Act should not be on a public registry. Low risk individuals should not be placed on a public registry.
- 3) Use evidence-based methods for sexual abuse prevention.
- 4) Require risk assessments by experts.
- 5) Reform will reduce public costs. It is expensive. Based on modern social science research- public registry databases are ineffective and waste taxpayer money (\$1.2-\$1.5 million each year) and waste local police departments, Department of Corrections and Michigan courts, nor has the registry proven to demonstrate public safety-according to recent studies!
- 6) Reform will enhance public safety by allowing law enforcement to narrow down dangerous repeat offenders that do need careful monitoring.
- 7) Prevent children on sex offender registries. Look at the statistics (Center for Sex Offender Management & National Center on Sexual Behavior of Youth). Juveniles who have behaved in unhealthy, sexual ways can be managed with a professional who has specialized training with proper guidance.

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- 8) People should be able to petition who have rehabilitated so they can work, live and travel so chances of recidivism is minimized. Barriers create a risk that do not contribute to public safety according to statistics.

How the registry stands, everyone is in the same basket and this should not be.

- Treating all individuals who commit sexual harm the same way is not effective to achieve safety to themselves or others.
 - The 3-tier system is not accurate and was formulated by people who are not experts in sex crimes. Current statues were passed based on reaction to rare events, sexually motivated child abduction by strangers. There are only a handful of the 42,000+ people on the registry that committed that sort of crime.
 - There are constitutional problems that need to be addressed which are punishing through banishing individuals who have not re-committed a crime or who have been found to not be a criminal. The U.S. Department of Justice recommends against offender exclusion zones because they do not reduce crime; but may have increased recidivism in Michigan!
 - There is a current case going through our state as you know. You can look at the Plaintiff's in the Does vs. Snyder case. Please use this case to take a hard look at all the SORA problems. There is reason to do so.
 - There are two bills that have been compiled regarding other issues which need support and need to be introduced. Legislative hearings need to be held to discuss these issues.
1. Is a public registry the best way in promoting public safely based on modern research or can we put the millions of dollars spent on it toward developing a process for individual risk assessments to ensure only people who are a true risk and need to be monitored?
 2. How can we apply modern day research to fashion laws based on scientific research as opposed to unconstitutional laws that are based on emotions regarding sex offenders?

Please contact me with any further questions and PLEASE get on board for sex offender registry reform!

Thank you for your diligence in this matter,

Joshua & Jami Shea, citizens supporting a more effective registry