

Dear House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to explain our reasoning for opposing HB 5679. First of all, I am a wife of a registrant that shouldn't even be on the registry and most importantly I am his second wife. Secondly, as a citizen separate from even having a relationship with a registrant, this law should be revised to make the registry private and available to law enforcement only. As well as leveling out the restrictions that are more punishment vs protection. The rights of these citizens is definitely out of line and HB 5679 hasn't accomplished what is constitutional.

My husband, Tim was forced to take a plea bargain and sentenced to 5 years in 1992. Before Romeo and Juliet laws existed, my husband paid a price to ultimately cover up an abusive mother's scars and bruises and spent 5 years in a minimum security facility in Ionia, MI. His registry began on January 28, 1993 when he was sentenced. First issue, the law for requiring someone to be on the registry went into law in 1994 after being placed on the registry. And, second issue is prior to 2011, he would have been relieved of his registration January 28, 2018. However, the unconstitutional change in the law took him to Life, not reviewing that he was registered prior to 2011 or even trying to review his case. Laws cannot be made and grandfathered, they are meant to be put in place for those individuals on the registry from 2011 forward, NEVER GRANDFATHERED. How can you give him a life sentence if he wasn't even able to use the Romeo and Juliet law as a defense nor was the registry required by law?

If it wasn't bad enough that he paid his price for false allegations the first time, I witnessed him pay his price again through further false allegations by his first wife whom premeditated actions that ultimately stripped him of his parenting/visitation with his daughters. Does this committee have any idea what it's like to witness someone that dearly loves his children to lose this relationship due to this unconstitutional law and perjury in a court of law? Does this committee have any idea that his girls are living with an extremely neglectful, mentally unfit mother due to this unconstitutional law because CPS and Wayne County Courts want to trust her more than their innocent father? Yes, he's innocent of it all and your unconstitutional law has stripped him of his rights with his children and allows 2 girls to be mentally, emotionally and physically abused by their mother. Together, this law and the corruption in the family courts are at fault for the now 18 year that quit school, has't received drivers training has extreme anxiety and a 14 yr old that was charged for truancy, has extremely poor grades and both have been exposed to some pretty extreme environments from hopping from one boyfriends to the next of their mothers'. The FATHER in this situation is the better fit parent to ensure that his daughters' best interests are met and this law and corruption stands in the way. Does this committee truly feel that this law and its extremes' don't affect the lives of the registrants and their families?

Lastly, I'm absolutely devastated at the injustice in it all and have lost all the faith I once had in any court system protecting us. In fact, this world has been a huge disappointment due to all the lies, deceit and corruption that has been allowed, just in law. I pray and hope that this committee uses their partnership with the creator of the laws and that every decision is of good and noble. Leviticus 19.

Thank you for your time,

Radawn Verheggen, Wife of Timothy James Verheggen