

Ms. Sweet. I wish to offer testimony in regards to House Bill 5679.

I Oppose HB 5679 and you should too. 34 years Ago I was convicted of a sex offense crime. The Judge sentenced me to a prison sentence. Nothing More. Upon my release from prison I completed 2 years of parole and was discharged as a “free” man. **Not True!** I found myself subject to the terms of SORA, a law passed and put into effect **7 years after my conviction.** SORA, a “civil registration” limited my freedom and added to my punishment. SORA became extended parole; reporting to law enforcement 4 times a year, reporting where I lived, where I worked, what vehicles I drove, my phone number, email address, limited my choices of where I could work, live, and even worship. I was not allowed to be present at any of my children’s school activities, even though **MY OFFENSE DID NOT INVOLVE A CHILD.** This is “**PAROLE.**” Call it what you want, but I am not free to live or work where I want, and I have a list of stipulations which, failure to adhere to is punishable by imprisonment... The Legislature calls SORA a civil registration, but there are no other “civil registrations” as restrictive or punitive as SORA. 25 years of parole on SORA.... which many years later was **CHANGED to LIFE TIME** registration/PAROLE. And, because I am on the **public** registration (even though the 1st SORA was for law enforcement agencies only) I and my family have been openly subjected to vigilantism, harassment, denied housing, denied employment, denied financing. One example was at Halloween time one year someone placed a copy of the SORA list with my name high-lighted in each mailbox up & down my street and left me a note to take my family and leave town before something “bad” happened to us. I live in constant fear for my family and myself from vigilantism. I have been on the registry for over 20 years... I have NOT reoffended, and I am not going to.... On what basis does the state legislature determine that I am a significant threat to the community and deserving of a tier III designation and lifetime parole? Since my conviction I have earned (3) college degrees, owned my own business, received letters of commendation from the MDOC for volunteer work in the prisons (after my release). I always thought it was illegal and unconstitutional to go back and add additional punishment to a man’s criminal conviction, but the State of Michigan has found a way to do it.... I committed a terrible crime, and for that I am dearly sorry. I paid my “debt” to society and have done everything I possibly can to live an honest and law-abiding life. When will the State of Michigan leave me alone and let me live my life peacefully. The only thing SORA has ever done for me was to put a **BIG SCARLET LETTER** on my forehead for all to see. **SORA doesn’t “help” protect the public from sex offenders, it just “helps” the public harass and discrimination against sex offenders.** Please reconsider and stop HB 5679.

Respectfully,

Richard Loveless