

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Kate Holbert <kate.holbert@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 2, 2020 12:26 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** House Bill 5679 - Postpone hearing until COVID restricted travel is lifted.

Dear Representative on the House Judiciary Committee - Ms. Sweet

HB 5679 has been scheduled for a hearing on May 6. Please postpone the hearing until COVID restricted travel is lifted.

Lawyers and advocates have been working with the legislature since 2016 to propose a fair and just alternative and there were many areas where there is agreement.

HB 5679 incorporates none of those agreed-upon provisions and is inadequate at curing the constitutional flaws in Michigan's Sex Offender Registry Act.

There is no way for the public, for those impacted by this law, to meaningfully participate in this hearing and I am requesting that you postpone this hearing until such a time when it is safe and wise for public participation.

Please postpone any hearings on HB 5679 until such a time when the public can meaningfully participate.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kate Holbert  
Kent County Michigan  
Kate.holbert@outlook.com

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Henry DeGraaff <hkdeg@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 11:41 AM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** HB5679

May 4, 2020

To the Michigan House Judiciary Committee  
Concerning the hearing scheduled for May 6 concerning HB5679, dealing with the Sex Offender Registry.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is not the time to hold a hearing when, because of the pandemic and stay at home orders, citizens cannot attend to air their concerns. PLEASE delay the hearing until stay at home orders are lifted, so that those interested in this bill can have input.

I admit my knowledge of the specifics in this bill is not first hand, but, from what I hear, it keeps sex offenders on the registry forever and also introduces tethers for far too long. It is definitely not fair to make sex offenders who have done their time pay again for the rest of their lives.

I suggest that a convicted sex offender serve his/her time and, upon release, wear a tether for 2 years, and remain on the SOR for 7 more years. At the end of that time, they should be dropped from the registry entirely. I submit that a released sex offender who has not been cured will repeat their behavior within the first two years after release (therefore the tether). If that happens, they should remain on the register for life. Those who do not repeat should be given their lives back. They have paid their due to society. Your job is not to keep punishing people for the rest of their lives, but to give them justice.

Hank DeGraaff  
[hkdeg@yahoo.com](mailto:hkdeg@yahoo.com)

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** David Meyer <meyerrd1984@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 10:54 AM  
**To:** Rep. David LaGrand (District 75)  
**Cc:** Melissa Sweet; Rep. Lee Chatfield (District 107); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Beau LaFave (District 108); Rep. Diana Farrington (District 30); Rep. Gary Howell (District 82); Rep. Steven Johnson (District 72); Rep. Daire Rendon (District 103); Rep. Ryan Berman (District 39); Rep. Douglas Wozniak (District 36); Rep. Vanessa Guerra (District 95); Rep. Brian Elder (District 96); Rep. Tenisha Yancey (District 1); Rep. Kyra Harris Bolden (District 35)  
**Subject:** Re: Mr. LaGrand

Hi All,

So are you going to invite me to your hearing? I would like a response. I have things to share with you about the registry and how you did not make substantive changes or even vaguely follow the implied opinion of the judges order. I want to be heard. You should call or text me a response so my anxiety and stress go down. So nice you can have committee meetings but you can't respond to interested constituents. Is that an accurate assessment? Hope to hear from you all soon.

David Ryan Meyer  
A00422876 (MDOC)  
6166904082

On Sat, May 2, 2020, 6:39 AM David Meyer <meyerrd1984@gmail.com> wrote:  
Hi David,

My name is David as well. I would like you to postpone the committee meeting on the new sex offender law bill. The ACLU people said it was the 6th of May. Please postpone the meeting or invite me as a special guest to the hearing. This is very relevant to me. I hope to hear from you soon. We need to start being honest and truthful. If you need to call and invite me my number is 6166904082. If it is safe enough for you to have a meeting in your capitol building it is safe enough for me to be there to testify.

Blessing and prayers for your continued health and safety in these times,  
Regards,  
David R Meyer

P.S. I CC'd all your committee members for open and honest communication going forward. Thanks all :-).

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Guy Goldberg <gfgoldb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 10:48 AM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** HB 5679

Please delay hearing on HB 5679 until the public can fairly participate. If I travel to Lansing will I be allowed in hearing? The Registry affects many people unfairly especially those who showed poor judgment in their youth. Some did nothing more than having a photo sent to them by a teenager when they were only a couple years older themselves. Often these photos were never asked for but they were charged with possession of child pornography and remain on a public registry. They are treated by the public as a child rapist. In fairness to them this hearing should be delayed until they are allowed to be heard. I would never have believed this could happen in the United States if not personally involved with someone affected by this. Thank you for reading this and considering a delay on this hearing Guy Goldberg

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Greg Kelly <gkelly8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 10:20 AM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** Fwd: HB 5679 - Hearing May 6  
**Attachments:** Betts Amicus Brief (S&JM et al) 20 - 05.04 (FINAL).pdf

Dear Rep Sweet,

Sending this in an effort to provide more information on Sex Offender Website.

Please see the screen grab below - Please consider striking the requirement for people to register as an offender when they have no conviction (conviction has been set-aside),  
ALSO, please see the attached brief that was submitted to the MI Supreme Court today.  
This document has a lot of very important facts about the registry's overall effectiveness.

In the big picture please consider 4 things:

- Cancel the Hearing on HB 5679 for this week.
- At least remove the requirement for people with convictions set aside to register - why should people register if they have no conviction on public record?
- Carefully review the attached brief
- Please consider a brief call with me.

322, and by adding section 2A.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

2 ~~(a) "Aircraft" means that term as defined in section 2 of the~~  
3 ~~aeronautics code of the state of Michigan, 1945 PA 327, MCL 259.2.~~

4 (a) ~~(b)~~ "Convicted" means 1 of the following:

5 (i) Having a judgment of conviction or a probation order  
6 entered in any court having jurisdiction over criminal offenses,  
7 including, but not limited to, a tribal court or a military court,  
8 and including a conviction subsequently set aside under 1965 PA  
9 213, MCL 780.621 to 780.624.

10 (ii) ~~Either of the following:~~

11 ~~(A)~~ Being assigned to youthful trainee status under sections  
12 11 to 15 of chapter II of the code of criminal procedure, 1927 PA  
13 175, MCL 762.11 to 762.15, before October 1, 2004. This ~~sub-~~  
14 ~~subparagraph~~ ~~subparagraph~~ does not apply if a petition was granted  
15 under section 8c at any time allowing the individual to discontinue  
16 registration under this act, including a reduced registration

Thank you,  
Greg Kelly  
586-557-0672

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Its Only Me <wrongfulconvicted@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 3, 2020 8:34 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** Mi HB 5679 VOTE NO !

This bill is very disturbing to think that the court already declared the registry to be unconstitutional, then to retroactively force this law is not expectable either, Please shoot down house bill 5679. Leave it to the courts to rule on truth in sentencing not politicians.

Families do nothing but suffer with these unjust laws I have a good friend who 20 years ago was retroactively added to a hit list for life, a judge gave him 1 to 3 years 28 years ago before a registry ever even existed then after being home for 6 years he was added to the registry via politician, Not a judge, Please consider these registries do NOT prevent crime, they just hold a person back from ever being able to change or conform, The not only effect the person on them but the families as well, Many people are jobless and can never become a better person when these registries hold them down. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank You , Todd :)

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** rogercboyd@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 3, 2020 6:23 PM  
**Cc:** rogercboyd@gmail.com  
**Subject:** HB 5679

Honorable Members of Mich. House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to ask that you PLEASE postpone hearings on HB 5679 from May 6 to a later time when it will be possible for people to more easily attend and have input on this bill. I share the belief with others that this bill is flawed and extends components that have been found to be unconstitutional, end up continuing to punish people who already have served their time, and often lead to unintended, but still harmful, consequences.

I am a licensed clinical psychologist who has worked with sexually addicted men and some sexual offenders in the past. I do not believe that a "one-size-fits-all" law has served to deal with an issue that has many variables. I also do not believe that the SOR laws have served to protect our society very well, and have often simply made it harder for people to be able to function in ways that would aid their overall adjustment to life after prison.

Please listen to requests such as mine, to allow more time to develop a bill that is truly appropriate, helpful, and constitutionally sound.

Roger Boyd, Ph.D.  
5458 Lindenwood Dr.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49004



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** David Mejeur <dlmejeur@att.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 3, 2020 1:14 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet; Rep. Lee Chatfield (District 107); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Beau LaFave (District 108); Rep. Diana Farrington (District 30); Rep. Gary Howell (District 82); Rep. Steven Johnson (District 72); Rep. Ryan Berman (District 39); Rep. Douglas Wozniak (District 36); Rep. David LaGrand (District 75); Rep. Vanessa Guerra (District 95); Rep. Brian Elder (District 96); Rep. Tenisha Yancey (District 1); Rep. Kyra Harris Bolden (District 35)  
**Subject:** HB5679

Dear Representatives and House Judiciary Committee Members,

Please accept this message in the spirit intended -- respect for the work of your committee and fairness to all those affected.

HB 5679 has been scheduled for a hearing on May 6. It is egregious that our elected officials would schedule a public hearing for a bill that has a profound impact on tens of thousands of Michigan citizens during a serious pandemic. The health, safety, and welfare of your constituents should be paramount and traveling to a public meeting during this crisis is unsafe. There is no way for the public, or those impacted by this law, can meaningfully participate in this hearing and I am requesting that you postpone this hearing until such a time when it is safe and wise for public participation.

Several provisions of the Michigan Sex Offender Registry were found unconstitutional over four years ago, necessitating substantially amending the law. Lawyers and advocates have been working with the legislature since 2016 propose a fair and just alternative and there were many areas where we had agreement. HB 5679 incorporates none of those agreed-upon provisions and is inadequate at curing the constitutional flaws in Michigan's Sex Offender Registry Act.

Please postpone any hearings on HB 5679 until such a time when the public can meaningfully participate.

I welcome further dialogue with you and a willingness to provide any further information you might be interested in.

Kind Regards,

David L. Mejeur  
5158 Deerland St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
cell: 269-565-5688



## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** spiderlockhart52@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 3, 2020 11:14 AM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** SOR

I am writing to you to ask for your consideration of applying a sensible and fair approach to the changes needed in the Michigan Sex Offender Laws. While the least sympathetic of our "recognized" and varied criminalized population, the current approach of utilizing the public internet to shaming and extending the adjudicated term of punishment is not only of questionable constitutional standing, it has numerous negative consequences, not only for the perpetrator, but for the State, Law Enforcement, Localities, Commerce and even the victims.

Given the size of the current Michigan Sex Offender Registry and the effect of SOR registration on an individual's employment status, the State loses millions of dollars in tax revenues.

Police, currently capable of tracking offenders without a utility for public shaming, spend significant resources managing and tracking individuals with historically and known recidivism rates that are among the lowest for all crime ( in spite of the general belief in recidivism rates supported by individual innuendo, organizations with a vested interest in ongoing and pointless supervision and recited as a tool for political positioning).

Property values are effected by the public shaming tools now in use by the State of Michigan and with little impact on the rate of crime (again, supported by the low recidivism rates).

Sexual crimes, as in a number of criminal actions, happen on a continuum from the venial to the horrendous. Few individuals or organizations will objectively review or seek to understand the actual offense and simply lump all SOR registrants into the most severe category of criminal regardless of their previous or subsequent behavior.

The Victims of sexual crimes are often re-victimized by the legal system and the ongoing impacts of SOR registration. Often, the perpetrator is responsible for a considerable portion of the families economic livelihood which is often impaired or even destroyed by the public response to SOR registrants. Victims could be better served in a family court setting and by the imposition of sentences that, when served, are completed without the ongoing stigmatization and with protecting the victim and associated family financial and personal security.

Clearly it's easier to look at the world as black and white and to ignore the complexities of social existence but how has that served our communities and our loved ones? Poorly, I would offer. Please assess the facts including recidivism rates, costs, effectiveness, fairness and impact of the current Michigan Sex Offenders Laws. Eliminate life registration ( a crime warranting such punitive action should be subject to incarceration, shouldn't it?), provide a process for removal for no further sexual offenses, eliminate the public registry for all but the most predatory and dangerous perpetrators, eliminate the Tier system that lumps all individuals into categories that reflect the worst possible actions defined by that category.

With respect,

Harry Lockhart

## **Melissa Sweet**

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**From:** wad up <wazupdetroitthere@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 2, 2020 10:13 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** Michigan HB 5679 So Wrong !

Please do not support this bill it is unconstitutional and has caused many families so much pain and is WRONG, this is why a federal Judge has struck it down recently then to keep applying these kinda laws to people for a entire life of shaming its not right ! Most the people on this registry have been put on them ex post facto , It is so wrong, All this registry does is stop people from ever being able to get a job, have equal treatment after a conviction has been served, The registry does not prevent crime this is scientifically proven, To try too rush a law like this threw is wrong ! Please do not support this bill. I am a Michigan voter and will be watching the out come.

Thank You , Tim Kelly

***Have A Blessed Day!!***

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Marie Campbell <dmccampbell.dexter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 2, 2020 7:29 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet; Rep. Lee Chatfield (District 107); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Beau LaFave (District 108); Rep. Diana Farrington (District 30); Rep. Gary Howell (District 82); Rep. Steven Johnson (District 72); Rep. Daire Rendon (District 103); Rep. Ryan Berman (District 39); Rep. Douglas Wozniak (District 36); Rep. David LaGrand (District 75); Rep. Vanessa Guerra (District 95); Rep. Brian Elder (District 96); Rep. Tenisha Yancey (District 1); Rep. Kyra Harris Bolden (District 35)  
**Subject:** HB 5679

Hello,

I'm writing to you about HB 5679. This bill is no better than our current registry, possibly worse. We have a chance to make our registry what it was meant to be, a civil obligation. It was never meant to be punishment. The research has shown it makes us less safe by making it difficult for over 40,000 people in Michigan to find jobs, housing or make friends. Is that what we want? Do we really want to create more dependents on our precious resources? This bill will not make Michigan's citizens safer. Please read this article, and learn about the impact of the registry.

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/sex-offender-laws-dont-make-children-safer-politicians-keep-passing-them-anyway\\_n\\_5d2c8571e4b02a5a5d5e96d1?guccounter=1](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/sex-offender-laws-dont-make-children-safer-politicians-keep-passing-them-anyway_n_5d2c8571e4b02a5a5d5e96d1?guccounter=1)

My son committed a sex offence when he was 21 by falling in love with and having sexual relations with an underage girl. He served his sentence and parole and is now trying to rebuild his life. He knows what he did was wrong. His victim did not want him to go to prison. He will never do anything close to that again. For the rest of his life as both the old legislation and this bill stand he won't ever be able to come off the registry. Please give cases like his a chance to fully reintegrate into society.

Thank You,

Marie Campbell

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Harry Sieplinga <imedia19@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 2, 2020 7:00 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** HB 5679 on May 6 - SORA



Hello Melissa Sweet,

I am the Sunshine Jail/Prison Chaplain who has contacted you before seeking relief for individuals on the Registry. The current Michigan Sex Offender Registry is a major barrier to restoring individuals as productive citizens. Labeling over 44,000 individuals as dangerous continues to have costly, negative effects to our State.

Such As:

- unemployment and homelessness
- the cost of tracking thousands of no threat citizens
- millions of citizens living in unwarranted fear of individuals on the SOR

I am one of hundreds who are seeking an opportunity to suggest important changes beneficial to all citizens of our state. Scheduling a public hearing on HB 5679 during the pandemic is an affront to representative government.

Please reschedule the PUBLIC hearing when we are able to provide input.

I appreciate your consideration.

Harry Sieplinga

Prison Chaplain  
Sunshine Community Church  
3019 Coit Ave NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505  
616-581-1228

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Beverly Chesebro <bchesebro@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 9:14 AM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet; Rep. Graham Filler (District 93)  
**Cc:** Intern  
**Subject:** HB 5679

To Whom This Concerns:

Please accept this communication in response to HB 5679 for the purpose of sharing during committee review and placed in record.

I wish to share my story as it relates to MI SORA. My spouse, Donna, had a consensual relationship back in the 80's with a young person who perused her.

Donna worked in a position of authority and exercised poor judgement by allowing herself to get involved. Accepting responsibility for her mistake, she accepted the sentencing (out of state) with little direction and support from an assigned public defender. She completed her sentence and all the requirements.

Unbeknownst to her - by accepting responsibility at that time, she was setting herself up for a lifetime of punishment. Had she known what was in store - she may have made different decisions regarding her legal case. In addition, she missed the cut-off date by months and was grandfathered into the SORA. Interesting - had she made the cut-off she would not be on the list and there wouldn't be any concern over her lifestyle or activity. How is this fair to her and what safety measure does this provide the public if inclusion on the list is a date?

I have observed over the years - the poor use of limited resources and infrastructure attempting to support this law that was initiated with no forethought to the resources needed to adequately manage the system. Resources that are needed in other areas protecting the public.

I would like to see data that substantiates the need for this law. Since inception has the % of repeat offenders been reduced? What is the % of violators that do not report as required?

Its a law that cannot be a "one size fits all" and expect to be sustainable by limited resources.

At a minimum the law should include a means for removal from the list for all Tiers (e.g.: no repeat offenses, years of no additional felonies, age based).

For those whose offense occurred well before MI SORA should not be subject to additional punishment, which is exactly what my spouse has had to endure.

Thanks for your time and consideration. This law hurts more than it helps.  
Beverly Chesebro

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Tim <legalizefreedom333@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 8:41 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** Sex " Offender " Registry

[www.SpeakAgainstTheCharges.com](http://www.SpeakAgainstTheCharges.com) exposes massive corruption by court officials in regards to SORA and sex " crimes " .

Mike Cox falsified documents and prosecuted in a fraudulent manner.

Please be advised and also please don't remotely consider passing the HB 5679 .

Cordially,  
Tim Brown

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Ken Morford <kenmorford@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 9:31 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** HB 5679

Dear Ms. Sweet,

I am a college freshman and I am just completing my first semester of Government. I am fascinated about it's structure and how things get done. I'm writing because I am alarmed that HB 5679 has been scheduled for a hearing on May 6. It baffles me that our elected officials - would schedule a public hearing for a bill that has a profound impact on tens of thousands of Michigan citizens during a serious pandemic. The public, and especially those impacted by this law, cannot meaningfully participate in this hearing. Can you please help postpone this hearing until it's safe and wise for everybody to participate? I realize I am just a freshman, and that government probably operates in reality much different than I've gotten from books, But I am aware for what registered sex offenders have done, and the increasingly harder rules they have to live by. It doesn't do any good to hammer on the ones who have been caught (and hopefully corrected) to reduce these crimes, we need to focus on stopping the ones that will be committed. There are ways.

Several provisions of the Michigan Sex Offender Registry were found unconstitutional over four years ago, necessitating substantially amending the law. Lawyers and advocates have been working with the legislature since 2016 to propose a fair and just alternative and there were many areas where there was agreement. HB 5679 incorporates none of those agreed-upon provisions and is inadequate at curing the constitutional flaws in Michigan's Sex Offender Registry Act.

Please postpone any hearings on HB 5679 until such a time when the public can meaningfully participate.

Thanks for listening. I've never written to a government official before, but my Government class encouraged me that it was a good thing to do.

Thank you again,  
Ken Morford

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** ascasper1973 <ascasper1973@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 9:02 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** Hb5679

Terrible bill that doesn't address the constitutionality of the sex offender registry! Please vote it down. It changes nothing!

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S9, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone



## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Jeff Sexton <sextonjeff0@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 11:52 AM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** My voice and testimony

Hello my name is jeffery andrew sexton. I was convicted in September of 2005, there was no proof or investigation done at all at the time also no rap kit done. My lawyer i had at the time told me to plea no contest and be done with it. I know my case was fabricated because the mother was inside at the time it happened and this all supposedly had happened outside when she called the kids inside she was inside with them for at least 10 minutes or so and i got charged for a crime for i didn't commit at the age of 15. I was charged and sentenced as a juvenile plus the mother had adopted me when i was 5. She was very abusive towards me. Please hear my testimony and thank you for your time.

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** justice4sos@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 11:34 AM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** Fwd: Testimony for the HB 5679 Judiciary hearing tomorrow

Hello, Please find my testimony to be read tomorrow below. I'm very sorry you need to risk exposure to a deadly virus to address this issue! Thank you for reading this:

Five years ago I woke up to learn my son's picture was on the front page of our local newspaper. I cannot begin to tell you how devastating the days/weeks/months/years were that followed as I saw his future being taken from him, from his family, from society. He is a bright kid who thinks technically not emotionally, and much to our surprise he got wrapped up with an underage girl. He paid a heavy price, serving 3 years in prison followed by 2 years on parole. He just finished this punishment last week. He was not a predator, never had any other brushes with the law; she testified she didn't want him to go to prison but the heavy hand of the law came down and our son did his time without incident. He was 21, she was 14.

We knew changes to the registry were afoot and had been hoping for the past four years, since it was found unconstitutional, that the law would become more just. When we saw HB 5679 it was apparent this was politics at its worse. Not only that, but it is being pushed through in the dark shadows of a pandemic.

The data have shown many things, including:

- The registry makes our society less safe,

- Recidivism is extremely low for sex offenses,

- Most sexual assaults are by someone the victim knows

The registry was intended to be a private database for finding predators. As changes were made it became a lifetime punishment and trap for many like my son. Since, violating it, is a felony it has lent to our mass incarceration problem. We have a chance to rectify some of the historic damage previous registry changes created. This bill was a slapshot effort to appease Supreme Court Judge Cleland. It deserves more consideration. Please don't pass this bill on.

Thank You,

Marie Campbell

**Melissa Sweet**

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**From:** Hello <motownoldes@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 10:39 AM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** HOUSE BILL 5679

Please Postpone 5679 let the courts rulings stand , This bill does nothing too protect or prevent crime, Life time or Retroactive Punishment is Never Excepted, Please ! DO NOT SUPPORT !

A Concerned Michigan Voter !

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Lori Duffy <loriduffy79@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 9:52 AM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** Fwd: HB 5679

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Lori Duffy <loriduffy79@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Tue, May 5, 2020, 9:38 AM  
**Subject:** HB 5679  
**To:** <GrahamFiller@house.mi.gov>

Good morning! I'm writing you concerning HB 5679. Its personal for me. Our son Kenny, got in trouble when he was 13. He was sentenced, went away to Starr Commonwealth for 3 years, for treatment. We were assured after his treatment, he would be ok, wouldn't have to register, as long as we complied with all treatment requirements. He was discharged, and his life has never been the same. He did get enlisted in the National Guard, where he was a hummer mechanic, an exemplary one, I might add. He served and it made him happy. After 4 years, he tried to reinlist, they said, sorry, your a sex offender. He was very disappointed. He is now married, has 2 daughters, 1 in school. He is a wonderful dad, his girls love him. He tries his best to live his life, with all the stipulations, he has to live with. This was supposed to go away for him after 10 years. He is now 32, never been in any trouble, in 20 years, yet he has the SWAT team show up at his house, just to check...thank God my granddaughters were asleep. I know some people are habitual offenders, but people like my son, dont deserve this to hang over their heads forever. He does what hes supposed to everyday, but I can see the toll it takes on him, and his extended family. Please hear me for him, and, all the others that are put in the same category as those who consistently reoffend, don't register, have no regard for their actions! I beg of you to let our son, be a dad, go to their games, Daddy daughter dance, watch them graduate. I thank you for your time!

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Rebecca Schroeder <raschroeder8219@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 8:15 AM  
**To:** Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** HB 5679

I'm emailing in regards to the house trying to pass HB 5679 during this global crisis. How are those directly affected by this allowed to be heard if we are unable to attend? I would ask that these facts be taken into consideration before moving forward. Thank you.

My Testimony:

I'm currently ordered to register every quarter as a Tier 3 offender. I was convicted in 1998 and sentenced to one year in the county jail, one year on electronic tethering and 3 years of probation, as well as a requirement to register for 25 years. 12 years into my required registry the law was changed from a 25 year registry term to lifetime registration. Let it be noted that I had no prior offenses or subsequent offenses since the said case in 1998. I also NEVER violated my terms of probation or requirement to register with the exception of when I was hospitalized in 2017 which caused a missed verification. I appeared before the court and the judge, seeing that I had medical issues going on dismissed the case with no repercussions. I made a poor decision at the time of the charge and over the past 21 years have shown that I am able to be a productive member of society with no threat to the public. Having been on the registry has held me back from many things such as career changes and the such. The 25 year mark set forth in the original sentence is coming up in a little under 3 years. I would like to look forward to moving on from this. Having the requirement change 12 years into my sentence, in my opinion, was unconstitutional. I would pray that my sentence requirement be returned to its original order. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Ann Schroeder  
1437 Leeson Ct  
Cadillac, Michigan  
2318845582  
[raschroeder8219@gmail.com](mailto:raschroeder8219@gmail.com)

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*Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come-Jeremiah 33:3*

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Adam BALDEN <michiganman305@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 5:07 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** HB 5679

Dear Representative,

My name is Adam Richard Balden and I am a Michigan citizen and required registrant of SORA since 2008. I take full responsibility for my past actions and have worked hard to turn my life around after release from Incarceration. I graduated from Washtenaw Community College with an Associates in Human Services and I also earned a Bachelor of Social Work Degree from Eastern Michigan University (Summa Cum Laude). I also have spent years serving my community as a volunteer at Meals on Wheels (among other opportunities to serve). I believe that the public registry has not helped to keep our communities safe and the academic research backs this up. The SORA has greatly impacted my ability to find consistent housing and work. I also have been subjected to harassment as a result of the registry. The SORA has been detrimental to reintegration into society. It is my sincere desire to continue to fight for criminal justice reform while bettering myself as a productive, successful and law abiding member of society. I am advocating for the rejection of this House Bill and ultimately would like to obtain relief from SORA altogether. I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Adam Balden  
BSW

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** John Noah <njt5522@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 4:47 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** Sex offender law

Hello my name is john an I am on the sex offender registration I am concerned that this bill will do no good I have a 8 year old son that lives with me I can't go to any school function because I'm band from being a 1000 feet from school ground I am also a union construction worker and can't do some jobs because of the school soon rules this bill doesn't protect the community at all it only add more problems to law enforcement and people on the regersty this has taken a toll on my marriage and to my son's life please DO NOT PASS this bill thank you

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Robert Camp <robert\_camp\_99@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 4:36 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** Committee hearing

Dear Melissa Sweet,

We have friends whose son is on the SOR. He was a level 4 and his life has been decimated by this. What a horrible waste of a talented life. He has lived in deep depression for years. We are asking you to please postpone the hearing on H 5679 during the pandemic as people cannot voice their opinions at a public hearing when they have been ordered to stay home. This would be a very undignified and unjust move for the house judiciary committee to do.

Please ponder this,  
Barb Camp

2203 Godwin SE  
Grand Rapids, MI  
49507



## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Blair Johnson <bjohnson@attorneypeterjohnson.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 3:52 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** URGENT: Strictly Opposing May 6 Hearing on HB 5679

Dear Clerk:

I am a member of the Professional Advisory Board of the Coalition for a Useful Registry. It has come to my attention that our Michigan House Judiciary Committee has scheduled a meeting to consider House Bill 5679, which was drafted to address the numerous constitutional violations of Michigan's Sex Offender Registry Act (SORA).

I am registering my strenuous objection and deepest disappointment in our state government and in particular with this committee, which has chosen to proceed with a very critical review of a *very terrible bill* under a global pandemic. I cannot begin to express my anger and appall at the LACK OF INTEGRITY this committee has to try and "sneak this bill under the radar" of the biggest health crisis of our modern era.

**Shame on you folks.** Have you no respect for your positions as elected officials? Can you not see how the weakness in this bill is *only going to waste more taxpayer money* because it simply draws a line in the sands of time and absolutely fails to address the mountains of data that show how an offense-based registry is unnecessarily punitive and does NOTHING to protect the general public?

I ask you, please, PLEASE – ADJOURN THIS COMMITTEE MEETING ASAP! Now is not the time or place to take on legislation that was embarrassed in the federal courts. This move is yet another example of why our residents have lost faith in our state government.

Please do the right thing and save your reputations. Cancel this committee meeting.

Thank you for your time,  
Blair M. Johnson (P75639)

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Blair M. Johnson (P75639)  
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## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** rploveless@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 2:44 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** HB 5679 Testimony

Dear Committee member,

In regards to HB 5679 I would offer the following testimony. While I do have somewhat of a "checkered" past over 34 years ago... I am and have been a law abiding citizen of the State of Michigan for quite some time now. I work hard to support my family, I am a father, a husband, an employee, a neighbor, a member of my community and a registered voter. I believe in law and order, and equally believe in a justice system that allows for "second chances" ....for those willing to work hard to earn it. HB 5679 is extremely draconian, and while some components of a registration are needful, many aspects of this Bill amount to a Scarlet Letter...It is a banishment from our communities. It is a banishment from normal life, work, family and community interaction. This Bill prohibits offenders the opportunity to serve their sentence, complete their punishment, and work towards the goal of returning to a functioning role in our society. I would like to believe that I am a fair example of an offender who has truly repented of his past and has attempted to live a productive life here in the State of Michigan. I was sentenced in 1987 and at that time there were no laws established limiting my citizenship, freedoms and protections once my sentence was completed. But I must confess that I have lived these past 20 years in fear, fear for my family and fear for myself. I have been victimized by vigilantes in my community, I have been banned from where I can live, where I can work, where I can shop. Although it is not called this, I am on lifetime parole. I must report where I live, work, if I take a vacation for more than 7 days, what vehicle I drive, my phone number and email, and failure to report these is punishable by imprisonment. I have accepted all of this as part of the price to pay for the crime I had committed...but when does it stop... where does it stop... The public has a right to feel safe, but so do I. My offense was 34 years ago... I completed the punishment for my offense and was released 20 years ago. Am I not now an equal citizen of the State of Michigan. Am I not equally entitled to the same freedoms, liberties, and protections ascribed to all law abiding citizens of this State? I would like to think that I am, but the reality of living under our Registration System makes it a near impossibility. When I was young, I remember hearing a very old saying "Two wrongs do not make a right." I believe this applies towards HB 5679. Thank you for listening. Respectfully, Richard Loveless

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Natasha Abner <nabner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020 1:04 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** Protect People in MDOC Custody

Dear Clerk Sweet,

The people in Michigan Department of Corrections Custody are **our state's responsibility** and current testing reveals a 50% infection rate from COVID-19 among our incarcerated population. This is going to lead to untold suffering and death if we do not act now - in fact, many lives have already unnecessarily been lost and much unnecessary suffering has already taken place because we have **delayed acting**. Michigan has some of the harshest sentencing laws in the United States and the overcrowded prison population to show for it - if we want a criminal 'justice' system, we must find our humanity in how we treat offenders. Because they are people. And they are people who are members of our Michigan community.

Please take action to protect the men and women in Michigan's prisons during the COVID-19 crisis. I understand the parole board is working 7 days a week, but our prisons remain overcrowded, and people are sick and dying at alarming rates. I am asking you to urge Governor Whitmer and the MDOC to:

- Repeal Truth in Sentencing
- Release the elderly and those with chronic illnesses
- Grant all pending commutations
- Commute the sentences of anyone over age 50 with less than 5 years left to serve
- Issue emergency commutations for vulnerable and low-risk populations, especially those who have served half or more of their minimum sentence
- Test every single prisoner for COVID-19 and provide everyone in prison access to free phone calls, hand sanitizer, preventive medication and protective gear

These actions will make our prisons safer for the men and women incarcerated there, and for the men and women who work there, as well as the families and communities they come home to. This cannot wait. Please act now. The safety of our entire state depends on it.

Sincerely,

Dr. Natasha Abner

Ann Arbor, MI

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Swift Ems Games Em <nickswift8415@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020 1:01 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** SOR

I was placed on the SOR after taking a plea because i had a crappy wanna be attorney that talked me into taking a 2 year plea along with 10 years om the registry. When I moved to michigan they changed my guidelines to lifetime. Im still not sure thats entirely legal but i dont know enough about this law. I was convicted by corrupt police who neglected there job to record anything and wrote a statement in there words instead of mine. Idk if there is any way to help me with what ive been going through or if there is any other information you need but thank you for taking the time to read this.

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Judy Coxen <jcoxen@wolverinecoilspring.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020 8:18 AM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** House Judiciary Committee Hearing on 5/6/2020 - HB 5679

**Importance:** High

Good morning Committee Clerk Sweet,

Please place my written testimony below for House Judiciary Committee Hearing on 5/6/2020 - HB 5679

Dear House Judiciary Committee,

I see firsthand how people on the SORA list for 20+ years live in the daily fear of being discovered by friends and co-workers of having made a terrible mistake many years ago, having to explain why they can't attend a grandchild's tee-ball game or dance recital at their school. I see how they continue to be lumped into your broad system "still dangerous to society", yet they are in fact good citizens who successfully serve their employers, their communities and their families, and who effectively teach their children and grandchildren the difference between right and wrong. The SORA list has served its purpose for these who report regularly, consistently and on time and who have been doing so for many, many years. You, however, have not assessed them, talked to them, offered any support or made any attempt to find out who they are now and to parole them. Why haven't YOU, our leaders, recognized these people have changed and their contributions?

You've created a system that cannot accurately identify good people from bad people. You've lumped them all together and say you're protecting the public. How can someone look at the SORA list and know who are good and who are bad people? You assume everyone on this list is bad without assessment and regard for who they are now.

I strongly urge you to change this system to be a more fair system, to work with the ACLU and allow the good citizens of the State of Michigan who made terrible mistakes many years ago to be free of this SORA list.

Thank you,

Judy Coxen

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** David Fricke <dfricke@abcorindustries.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020 7:13 AM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet; Rep. Lee Chatfield (District 107); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Beau LaFave (District 108); Rep. Diana Farrington (District 30); Rep. Gary Howell (District 82); Rep. Steven Johnson (District 72); Rep. Daire Rendon (District 103); Rep. Ryan Berman (District 39); Rep. Douglas Wozniak (District 36); Rep. David LaGrand (District 75); Rep. Vanessa Guerra (District 95); Rep. Brian Elder (District 96); Rep. Tenisha Yancey (District 1); Rep. Kyra Harris Bolden (District 35)  
**Subject:** HB 5679

To Whom it may Concern,

My name is David Fricke, I am a 43 year old male who was convicted on two counts of second degree Criminal Sexual Conduct in 2014. I was sentenced to prison time, lifetime electronic monitoring and lifetime registration on the Michigan Sex Offender Registry.

I have completed my prison term, and have successfully completed parole.

I have complied and observed all regulations given to me by the state. As part of this I have ran into some major hardships regarding the Sex Offender Registry.

When I was released from prison I was paroled to my mother's apartment. After a period of two months we received a notice that I had to move or everyone would be evicted. Due to this I became homeless and landed in the Holland Rescue Mission. I also found it very difficult to find a place to live due to the Registry and the Registry guidelines.

I had quite a bit of trouble looking for employment after my release. I was limited to many employment opportunities due to being on the Registry. I had to go through a program called 70 X 7 which specialises in finding employment for Sex Offenders.

During my current employment of two plus years at the same company I have run into multiple instances of discrimination due to the Registry. On one instance a former supervisor looked up the SORA at work and started harassing all members of the crew on the Registry. With the brunt of the harassment aimed at me.

There are several other instances of employees talking about those of us on the Registry. In some instances this is right in earshot of the individuals being spoken of. This creates undue stress and a hostile working environment.

The one thing that has happened to me above all others is when my girlfriend broke up with me. She knew of my crime and all the points surrounding it. I didn't hold anything from her. However her family looked me up on the internet. As a result of the registry and the information contained therein her family forced her to end our relationship. They told her they would disown her if she stayed with me.

In conclusion the Sex Offender Registry has negatively affected my life due to the public nature and content.

Sincerely

David Fricke

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** joe cowdrey <joecowdrey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020 12:14 AM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** Fwd: SOR

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** joe cowdrey <joecowdrey@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Wed, May 6, 2020, 12:04 AM  
**Subject:** SOR  
**To:** <GrahamFiller@house.mi.gov>

In 1993, at 28 years old I was convicted of CSC3 assault with intent with no penetration, with a 21 year old female.

Upon my release, I became self employed and worked for 3 years, in the third year, I lost 2 contracts because it was discovered that I was on the SOR. I was informed that despite their appreciation of my services they could not do business with me because I was on the SOR. The opportunities for earning a solid income were growing less and less...

Many wrote letters on my behalf but my services were still terminated.

My passion is coaching. I have not been allowed to pursue any dreams and ambitions because of the continued changes and restrictions and by being on the SOR that have affected me since my release. I was first told, in 98 I would be on it for 10 years...just prior to the ten years being up, I was notified it was being changed to 15, later I was told the tier had changed and I would be on it for 25 years and eventually it was changed yet again requiring me to be on the SOR for life. For a crime I was sentenced to in 93 for.

I'm unable to put into words the negative way the SOR has impacted my re-entry to society. At 33 I was full of hope and determined to make a positive difference in the lives of others, I had always coached, umpired, etc. But I was limited. I could not enter any school programs, despite my charge involving an adult, NOT a child/minor.

I was eventually blessed with a child 20+years after my incarceration, and as she has grown up it has been difficult to know just how to tell her about this injustice in my life, and while I served my time back in the 90s, the stigma of being on this registry has damaged me in ways that no one could measure or understand without going through it themselves.

I'm a leader and I do my best to put the past behind me but every three months I visit my local sherriff's department where I am reminded by protocol and adherence to the SOR, that I am considered the worst of the worst...

Praying for justice, at 58 years old,  
Sincerely, Joe Cowdrey

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Carleton Cook <carletoncook@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 5:03 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** HB5679

Ms Committee Clerk,

Many of my group are requesting a delay on HB5679 due to the stay at home order. We want to participate in this process but, the Governor's order denies our participation. Many of our group do not have the skills or equipment to internet communication. Therefore, we can not participate. We are asking for HB5679 be taken off the agenda this Wednesday.

One such individual is on disability. His offense was committed before there was a registry. When it developed he was placed on it with a 25 year status. When the tier system was devised he was transferred to lifetime status. When that happened he lost his Section 8 assistance from HUD. This is just one of the unintended consequences that uninformed legislators do without knowledge. This man is a citizen, as are the other 44,000.

Thank you,

Dr Carleton A. Cook