

Testimony of Kendall Brugger MA  
Site Engineer and Trainer (Audio, Video, Lighting)  
Before the House Judiciary Committee, Lansing, Michigan  
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Thank you Mr. Filler and House Judiciary Committee for reviewing HB 5679 and for allowing me the opportunity to share my story as it relates to this legislation.

After I was added to the registry in February of 2005, I was hired by my church in 2006 to be the technical director. Leadership there was completely aware of my offense and that I was on the registry. I was a successful employee there for 5 years until the changes to the law in 2011 forced me to step down. This church where I worked (and currently attend) has a preschool on site which includes a developmental kindergarten program which falls under the school restrictions so I was no longer legally allowed to work there, despite the efforts of my employer to keep me on staff.

During this time period I was also contracting with the local university next door to the same church. I worked as the musical and technical director for the theater department. The university staff knew my story as well. I was very successful in that work, loved by faculty and students alike. Again, because of the proximity to the church's school (property line to property line), I had to leave that job as well. Where I worked on campus was thousands of feet away from the school location on the church's campus but that didn't make a difference because of the law's lack of clarity.

Because of this legislation, I'm no longer allowed to volunteer at my church where before 2011 I was able to play in the band, work in technology and help out in the food pantry. These tasks wouldn't even have me on site during school hours yet as the law is written, I'm unsure if I am even allowed to attend church there let alone volunteer, though I do attend anyhow.

Due to the reporting requirements, I am forced to miss a full day's work at my current employment because it takes too much time out of my work day. An email or phone call solution seems more than adequate for reporting, but instead Michigan sees fit to take a day's pay away from me twice each year.

The last issue that I will share is regarding the tier system. My offense doesn't fit the description of any of the items listed in the various tiers so I'm therefore lumped in with offenses far worse than what I was guilty of. Not only is it inaccurate and unfair, I have to try to explain what's wrong with the system to potential employers and others who have asked or accused me of the worst.

I have spent the last eighteen years now trying to move ahead, work hard for my family, and live above my past, yet Michigan sees fit to continually punish me over and over despite my clean record before or since. Please make this right.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration.

Trusting you to make the registry fair for everyone,

Kendall Brugger