September 12, 2006
Re: HB 6430
Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am addressing you as a Mom and as the wife of a former deputy listed on the SOR for CSC 4th degree officer/inmate. I think it is important for you to have some of the facts regarding my husband's conviction in order for you to understand my perspective.

My husband was convicted of officer/inmate consensual contact, the contact involved a consensual kiss through cell bars. He was acquitted of CSC4 involving any force or coercion. He has been listed on the registry since March 1997.

As a mom I fully support the need to have strict laws to protect children and the public from predators, and violent offenders.

My concerns regarding HB 6430 are:

1. This bill will no longer allow us to monitor our teenage son's MYSPACE site, which we do on a daily basis. As parents we are responsible for his safety and for his actions. We check on what is posted on his account, the emails he sends/receives, what he posts on others sites, and who his "friends" are. In the last several months emphasizing to parents the need to monitor their child's activity on MYSPACE has been made national news. This fact is drilled into us by schools, the local police, and media. We are doing exactly what we are supposed to do as parents, however with the implementation of HB 6430 will prohibit us from doing that, and that puts our son at risk.

2. We created a family blog site to post family pictures to share with our friends and family who are not close by, and we exchange comments and notes on that site. With the implementation of HB 6430 we will no longer be able to do that, and that is just wrong anyway you look at it.

3. HB 6430's coverage is too all encompassing. This bill should not pertain to all persons unless their conviction involves a child, violence, or the use of the internet. To blanket cover everyone is unjust. This bill should only pertain to those who have harmed a child in any way, committed a violent or predatory act, or used the internet in their crime.

4. Many of the individuals this bill will effect have never harmed a child or used the internet to accost or abuse any one.

5. HB 6430 as do many of the other recently passed laws such as the 1000 foot school safety zone and residency laws do not take into account the factors involved in the conviction and that many of these individuals have families who are being adversely effected by these laws, especially their children.

6. HB 6430 has no way to distinguish who it is in the household who is logging onto these "commercial social networking websites" which now limits my activities for fear authorities will assume it is my husband. I cannot risk a misunderstanding. My activities should not be limited. I've done nothing wrong.

My husband is already prohibited from attending any school events for either of our kids. He has missed our 5 year old's first day of school, first Open House, and many other firsts, as well as missing his teen age son's high school football games. Our kids can no longer have friends to our house if my husband is home because we live well within the 1000 foot zone and it is illegal for him to have any contact with any minor (actually this includes his own children based on the way the law is written) within that zone. Our kids do not understand any of this, and it is cruel for them to be subjected to this when their Dad has done absolutely nothing to be treated as though he is a threat to a child. I don't know how much more of this any of us can take. It has been 9.5 years of constant punishment, law changes, restrictions, humiliation, depression, and fear.

My kids' safety is no less important than someone's whose husband doesn't have a CSC4th degree conviction. My husband should not be prevented from being a parent, from protecting his kids, or from sharing family pictures on line with our family and friends.

In no way does my husband's conviction make him a threat to children or society. His alleged actions were the result of very poor and unethical choices, however they are not sexually deviant, predatory, violent, or habitual. There are many other individuals listed on the registry who have similar circumstances and are not predators.

I am asking the Committee to please redraft the current H 6430 to focus on those specific crimes which involve an adult harming or preying on a child, violent acts, and any act involving the internet, but please do not make this an all encompassing law.

Thank you for your time.
Heather Lisk