

March 7, 2025

The impacts that the sex offender registry has had on my family and my son has caused much distress in our day-to-day, month-to-month, and year-to-year living. Most people in our public and communities look at anyone who must register as a child molester or a violent person who seek out to harm people.

This stigma has caused personal humiliation on so many levels to not only my son but to the family. Intense shame, social isolation, emotional distress, anxiety, and depression. It also has impacted relationships where people feel they cannot trust and creates judgement and doubt. My son was a juvenile (he was 17, the victim was 16 and occurred while we lived on the reservation) when the offense happened and has had to register 19 years of his life. There is not a day since this occurred that he has not regretted this occurred. All his 20's and 30's he has been conflicted with this "title". It has caused mental health issues and addiction because the pain associated with the stigma. The registry rules are very demanding and is set up for failure, which in turn causes prison time, even though the person already served time on the offense. The shame and embarrassment have caused isolation in our daily lives and in employment. My son has suffered harassment, name calling, been left out, and treated like mincemeat at his employment because staff has been informed, he must register. How can he move on in life being treated as such? I personally have been inflicted at work with comments. It is horrible and inhuman treatment to receive. In fact, after my testimony was presented to the house, I received instant harassment on facebook and my letter was posted and was called an enabler. It reduces a person productivity, confidence and creates high anxiety to where you want to just hide. The police force has also treated him differently because of the stigma. Constant harassment and pulling him over just to make his life miserable. I had to purchase a home because there are limited options for these humans to find a place to live because again the public judges all of them to be violent and harmful. Even when they find a secure place to live the neighbors act cruel and gossip to shame and not make a person feel secure. My son cannot go to his daughters' sporting events without special permission making the vicious circle become larger and larger.

Allowing a juvenile or low risk offender to petition the court for the registry to be lifted would give people hope and reach for their future goals and to move on. Families would not be torn apart. After living 19 years in this hell, I know we would be able to breath and live proudly as a family and experience the love that we deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.