

HB – 2739 – Opponent Testimony of Jennifer Donahue-Runyan
February 28, 2018

Chairman Jennings and honorable members of the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee I am writing in opposition of HB - 2739 the legislation removing the protection for specific minors from registering as sex offender on the Kansas sex offenders registry.

I am in a unique position to see how this would affect a family, as I am a mom of the victim and step mom of the offender. My step son was twelve years old at the time of his offense. One of the stipulations was that he register until his 19th birthday. My step son is now 18 years old. In the last six years he has hit a lot of rough patches, but is finally on a good track for living a successful. He is interning at a church in Belton, MO and about to get a job at Chic Fil A.

Every month when he has to register it brings up an entire slew of emotions for him. While I agree that he should be reminded of what he did and how it makes him feel for hurting his younger brother like that, I do not believe that this should torture him for the rest of his life. He has done the time for the crime he committed.

If he would have had to register for the rest of his life I believe that he would lose all hope for the future. Since he knows his time is almost up registering he's starting to look forward to all of the things he can do that the registry prevented him from. Hope is such an important aspect in anybody's life, especially one who has not chosen an easy path for themselves.