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February 20, 2013

To Kansas House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Members,

I, Randi Small, would like to bring forth my testimony relating to the matter of the proposed KORA (Kansas Offender Registration Act) changes of which I am a proponent. As a contributing member of society, a concerned citizen, and an individual who is directly impacted by this Act, I hope that my point of view is encouraging and enlightening to you as the lawmakers of this state.

The best testimonial I can express is simply how my life has played out since 2008. In that year I married my husband, Joshua Small, and began a journey that has changed in many ways directly because of this Act. Having known Joshua many years prior to marriage I was fully aware of the offenses against him as well as the requirements set forth for him as a juvenile registered offender. With his conviction Joshua was sentenced to 36 months in a juvenile correctional facility (because of good behavior he served 27 months) with 5 years' probation and registration to be completed upon release (against the agreed plea bargain of 18 months probation). At sentencing an end date of February 26, 2012 was given for termination of probation and registration. This date, however, was changed to a lifetime registration sentence retroactively sometime in mid 2011. This change completely devastated not only my husband and me but many members of our families and community who have been influential in our lives since this all began. We had been working diligently towards this "end" date since 2008 complying with any and all regulations related to KORA; establishing employment, purchasing a home, and starting a family;

ultimately preparing for our future. Having never missed a registration deadline, probation meeting, or committing any offense to jeopardize this termination date we felt betrayed by the system that we had worked so hard to follow.

On many occasions Joshua was required to miss work to meet with the proper authorities to complete registration because of scheduling within the sheriff's departments. Joshua has also been limited in his opportunities relating to his employment because of stringent requirements when traveling out of state for work. In many ways registration has hindered our ability to live freely without fear of persecution or consequence, for not only ourselves but our children. One instance that completely turned our world upside down involved a member of our local law enforcement informing us Joshua was listed as non-compliant through the KBI, which was untrue, however the website and database were not being properly updated. That day we realized a "simple" error in paperwork on the part of a law enforcement officer or even the state organization could potentially rip our family apart and send a loving father and husband back into the correctional system without cause.

We are in complete agreement that the KORA is a mandatory and beneficial tool for the citizens of this state and country, however, the statutes relating to juvenile offenses in particular seem to be unreasonable. It has been proven scientifically that maturity and reasoning are not completely developed until the early 20's. With this knowledge I feel that any crime committed as an adolescent, even into young adulthood, should not dictate the outcome of the entirety of your life. Adolescents make mistakes and should be accountable for those errors in judgment but the goal, in my opinion, should be to rehabilitate them. I feel that Joshua is just one of the excellent examples of our justice system successfully rehabilitating a juvenile and a continuation of punishment throughout his life is unjust.

I want to thank you for this opportunity to share a portion of my testimony as there are many people that can be affected by any and all changes to the KORA. I pray that this body of legislators continue to strive for justice and fairness for the citizens of this great state.

Sincerely,

Randi L. Small