

November 7, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley

Office of the Governor

1205 Pendleton Street

Columbia, SC 29201

Honorable Nikki Haley,

I am writing you about the Sex Offender Registry. I'm sure you get letters daily wanting stricter rules and regulations for the sex offenders that reside in our state. People wanting more notifications of the offenders in their neighborhoods, schools, and hospitals. Well while in some instances I agree with those people, I believe that each case should be handled individually.

I am writing this letter to tell you about my husband Anthony Etheridge who made a mistake in Iowa as a young adult and is still paying for that mistake today 20 years later here in South Carolina. In the State of Iowa, he was only required to register for 10 years, so his time is up there. Also, he received a pardon from the State of Iowa in 2009 which he carries around in his wallet for safe keeping. Since moving back to South Carolina, Anthony and I met and were married. He went back to college and received his Associate Degree in Dental Hygiene and has been a hard working, honest member of society. He has never been in any other trouble. In June of 2011 with the help of Senator Brad Hutto, Anthony filed a motion to be removed from the registry. The Honorable Judge Edgar Dickson resided in this hearing and upon reviewing all the case information, ordered Anthony to be removed from the registry immediately in May 2012

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(Case # 2011CP3800653). The Attorney General requested a judicial review in 2013 and we have been in limbo ever since. Each and every time the case is listed on the docket, it gets postponed or delayed.

In the meantime Anthony registers faithfully every 6 months, giving every piece of information required to register: pays his fees, vehicle registration info, place of employment, home address, bank information, boat registration and even my information (which I especially don't understand). Now, let me tell you what this registry has done for us. He has been fired from 2 jobs and had a contract teaching at a University revoked because his name is on the registry. Each time he lost his job it was never for behaving unprofessionally or inappropriately. It was never for attendance issues or being lazy. He was specifically fired each and every time because he is listed on the sex offender registry. No other reason. I am enclosing the latest termination letter as reference to what he deals with. These are not entry level jobs, he is a licensed professional by the state board of dentistry. Every time he loses a job it becomes more difficult to find new ones. This latest job paid 100k per year. Those are far and few to find. I have also had flyers passed around my job with my name and information on it so people would know I was married to him. People have passed these same flyers around our neighborhoods. It is plain ridiculous. I can understand law enforcement using this database to keep an eye on possible repeat offenders, but not for the public to harass people.

While I understand the purpose of the registry, I am asking you to review this case and see if there is any way you can please help my husband. Anyone who knows Anthony knows the type of person he is. Anyone who knows him knows he is not the same person he was 20 years ago. I have never met a person with a bigger heart and who would do anything for anybody. I again state that I understand the purpose of the registry but I also understand that people do make

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mistakes and people do change. Should we give someone a life sentence for a mistake that was made as a young adult? I thought the system was all about reform but the registry is just another form of prison. I don't see how anyone can be a hard working member of society when they are constantly being punished.

With kindest regards,

Lisa F. Etheridge, RN, BSN

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa F. Etheridge". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.



November 4, 2015

Anthony,

Recent information has reached us regarding your felony third degree sexual abuse conviction or guilty plea in Iowa. It was hard to believe, but the public record seems to be clear. The nature of that charge, which you have apparently been required to report to the public offender database, indicates that a minor was involved as a victim of sexual abuse.

While I am satisfied with your performance and thank you for your commitment to the company these past years, and while we understand that you fully paid your debt to society and have even successfully sought a pardon/special restoration of citizenship after your release, that does not take care of all of our legitimate business concerns. Our office address and our employee being registered publicly in this manner is not permissible, due to the nature of our business, even without considering any risk of recidivism, which is a real legal and insurance issue.

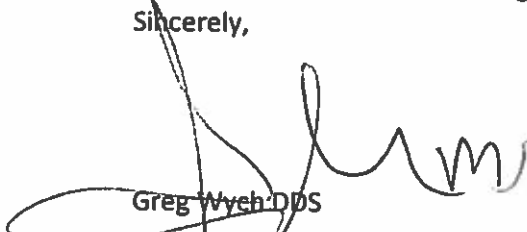
Probably because your entry into employment at Vista Smiles was not typical of our normal hiring practices, you did not submit all of the initial application forms, and until we checked this last week, we were not aware of the offender listing.

We have enjoyed having you here, and know this is at the very best going to inconvenience you, but the company has officially decided to terminate your employment at Vista Smiles. We are doing this out of concern for the perception and safety of our patients, and to protect the brand and employment of the staff at Vista Smiles.

I regret this but there seems to be no workable solution to the problem that would allow you to stay in your position. This termination is effective immediately, but you will, in compassion, receive two weeks' severance pay. Additionally, if you decide to seek unemployment benefits, I pledge that the company will not contest your claim.

I wish you fair seas and following winds.

Sincerely,



Greg Wych DDS

AWB