



CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 2042

The discovery of pornography at a crime scene is a possible clue to other crimes

Chairman Owens and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Concerned Women for America of Kansas supports HB 2042. Pornography hurts women, children and families so we support this bill.

The discovery of drug paraphernalia at a crime scene instantly alerts police that drug use and the crimes associated with the drug use/trafficking are an investigative avenue to explore. When pornography is found, it too should alert police to the possibility that other crimes may be involved. This legislation would document such findings and provide law enforcement with the links to other criminal activities such as sex trafficking, drugs, child molestation, and many others according to Roger Young, Special Agent FBI retired (1975-2001). He states there is no such thing as just an obscenity case...there almost always are other crimes involved.

Pornography addiction is as addictive as cocaine; the only difference is the chemical response in the brain is elicited through the eyes rather than being ingested. Viewing pornography produces a jolt of dopamine, a powerful brain hormone that affects the pleasure centers of the brain. As with other addictions, the dosage has to be continually increased to elicit the same response. The pornography addict needs more stimulation through more shocking material, eventually escalating to actualization...finding a live victim. Discovering pornography in the possession of an offender is like finding a blood trail...at the end there is almost always a victim.

Dr. Victor Cline, a clinical psychologist, in his treatment of over 350 sex addicts and offenders states that "with several exceptions, pornography has been a major or minor contributor or facilitator in the acquisition of their deviation or sexual addiction... He describes the steps involved: Addiction, Escalation; Desensitization and Acting out Sexually. According to the United States Postal Inspection Service, at least 80% of purchasers of child pornography are active abusers and nearly 40% of the child pornographers investigated over the past several years have sexually molested children in the past. [From a statement before the U.S. Senate on the Judiciary by Ernie Allen, Director of the National Center for Missing and exploited Children in 2002] A study by the Pennsylvania Internet Crimes against Children task force reported that 51% of individuals arrested for pornography-related offenses were also determined to be actively molesting children or to have molested in the past.

Predators often use child pornography to break down a child's resistance to molestation, using material that depicts children who are smiling, laughing and seemingly having fun, thus legitimizing the behavior in the child's eyes. Of 1,400 cases of reported child molestation in Louisville, Kentucky, between 1980 and 1984, pornography was connected with every incident and child pornography was connected in a majority of cases. [American Prosecutors Research Institute; "From Fantasy to Reality: The Link between Viewing Child Pornography and Molesting Children"; Candice Kim Volume 1, Number 2, 2004]

Predators use pornography routinely to groom young victims; to desensitize them to perverse sex acts. In a study by the Los Angeles Police Department's Sexually Exploited Child (SEC) Unit, officers have found that of the 320 adults arrested, 199 cases (62.2%) involved pornography. Pornography played a big part in sex trafficking of teenage girls in Wichita, Kansas May 2009, prompting the passage of Kansas' first sex trafficking bill. The pimps used pornography to train the young girls for prostitution.

Since pornography is clearly linked to the victimization of children, the increase of rape and domestic abuse as well as other crimes a notation that such material had been found in a person's possession could be a "red flag" to search for other possible crimes. We urge you to pass this bill.

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Senate Judiciary
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