



Chairman Abrams and members of the Senate Education Committee:

As the state director of Concerned Women for America, the largest public policy women's organization in the United States, I am compelled to testify for S. 104, a bill devised to protect children from the harmful effects of pornography, particularly child pornography.

We are a nation that prides itself on doing the best for our children; it is imperative that laudable idea is not merely a political mantra, but that those who create public policy actually make it a reality. Not only are children able to view pornography, increasingly, they are assaulted by pornography addicts who are no longer satisfied with images but seek out young children to fulfill their fantasies. Others are victims, being used by pornographers to create these sick images to satisfy an ever-increasing demand.

According to Jill Manning, a sociologist at Brigham Young University in a testimony before the United States Senate about pornography, she listed the negative effects on children when directly exposed to pornography: [Jill Manning, "Why the Government Should Care about Pornography," testimony before the United State Senate Committee on the Judiciary, November 10, 2005]

- Lasting negative or traumatic emotion responses
- Earlier onset of first sexual intercourse, thereby increasing the risk of STD's over the lifespan
- The belief that superior sexual satisfaction is attainable without having affection for one's partner, reinforcing the commoditization of sex and the objectification of humans
- The belief that being married or having a family are unattractive prospects
- Increased risk of exposure to incorrect information about human sexuality long before a minor is able to contextualize this information in ways an adult brain could
- Overestimating the prevalence of less common practices (e.g., group sex, bestiality or sadomasochistic activity)

Internet pornography is pervasive in our society. There are 4.2 million pornographic websites (12 percent of total websites), 420 million pornographic web pages, 68 million daily pornographic search engine requests (25 percent of the total), 116,000 daily Knutel "child pornography" requests and 100,000 websites offering child pornography. The average age of first Internet exposure to pornography is 11 years old; 90 percent of 8-to-16-year-olds have viewed pornography online with 80 percent of 15-to-17-year-olds having multiple hard-core exposures. [<http://www.internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com/internet-pornography-statistics.html>.] Additionally Symantec Corporation's report "Kids' Top 100 Searches of 2009" found the top five searches for all children were: You-Tube, Google, Facebook, Sex, and Porn. For children seven and under, the top five searches were YouTube, Google, Facebook, Porn, and Club Penguin for "tweens," with porn as eleventh. For teens (13-18), they were YouTube, Google, Facebook, Sex and Club Penguin; porn was the sixth top search.

I recently had a conversation with a young mom who has a son in second grade. This child, despite parental controls at home was able to access pornography on another computer. He used his phone to access these sites with the result that pornographic images continued to pop up on his phone and he was unable to get rid of them (mouse-trapping). Fortunately for him, his parents had installed an alert on his phone, and they were able to stop the assault. He was frightened and disturbed by the images he saw; his mother is distraught that her young son was exposed to such perversion.

I urge you to pass this legislation---for the children.

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