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March 16, 2017

Chairman John Barker
Federal and State Affairs
Kansas Legislature
Topeka, KS

RE: HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 6016

Our names are Michael Pfannenstiel, a Major, and Chris Evans, a Sergeant with the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. We are sharing this written testimony as an outline on what we will speak with the committee about today.

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office was asked to provide a Law Enforcement perspective on the harmful effects of pornography. It is a desire of this testimony to act as a proponent for House Resolution No. 6016. This testimony is based on several years of experience of investigating computer related crimes, not only the digital aspect but the human elements involved: the victims, their families, and the suspects. Our experience has repeatedly shown a connection between sexually related crimes and the collection of pornographic materials.

Major Pfannenstiel's first experience with the harmful effects of pornography, specifically child pornography, was in 2000. The investigation involved an individual who was sexually abusing two relatives who were under the age of 10. The offender was not only physically abusing the victims but he recorded several of the instances of abuse. Major Pfannenstiel's assignment was to examine the digital media on which he recorded the abuse as well as other pornographic images and videos he had collected. Another detective and Major Pfannenstiel volunteered for this assignment due to the highly graphic and disturbing nature of the videos. What Major Pfannenstiel learned from this experience was continually validated through future investigations in which he was personally involved by investigating or supervising a group of specially trained and committed detectives.

In 2005 the Johnson County Sheriff's Office committed to combatting the issue of offenders using the internet to solicit and potentially abuse juveniles. The unit was started in November, 2005 and the first arrest occurred January 2nd, 2006. From 2006 to 2012 the unit initiated approximately 100 investigations and assisted other agencies on several more incidents which resulted in arrests and

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search warrants for the computers which were utilized by the offenders. In a majority of the cases, approximately 95%, adult pornographic images and videos were discovered as well as evidence of viewing of pornographic material through the internet.

The unit evolved and the focus was directed on individuals who were accessing and trading child pornographic material. This resulted in over 160 investigations which resulted in numerous arrests and search warrants. Again, the results were the same. Not only was child pornography discovered, but other pornographic material was located.

Another aspect to these investigations was dealing with the "real" victims of these offenses. We have seen the effects on victims who were recorded, both knowingly and covertly, in the "manufacturing" of pornographic images or videos. In one instance, a juvenile victim attempted began dressing and cutting her hair as to look like a male so to make herself less attractive to the offender, her step-father. Again the investigation revealed not only pornographic images of the victim, but other pornographic material was discovered.

The effects on a victim are on-going with the ease of manufacturing, sharing, and accessing of this type of material. Victims are re-victimized again when their crime is shared and viewed over and over again, not only locally but globally.

The effects of these types of crimes cause additional stresses amongst family members. Often, once the unsuspecting spouse is confronted with the realization of what has occurred and the guilt of their failure to prevent it sets in, the strain often causes families and marriages to fall apart.

Not only does this activity create a never ending victimization, it does have an adverse effect on the law enforcement officers responsible with investigating these crimes. The viewing of an offender's collection of pornography, both child and adult, often has a negative impact on the investigator. The material is graphic, disgusting, stressful, and horrifying. The investigator must confront the disturbing realization that the offender received pleasure or joy by creating or viewing the material. Law enforcement officers overwhelmingly join the profession to help victims in their time of need. However, in these types of cases, an investigator may never be able to identify a victim and provide the help needed. For the investigator, the weight of this burden lies the heaviest.

Major Mike Pfannenstiel/ Sergeant Chris Evans