

Testimony in support of HB 2592 and SB 394
2-7-2024

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my concerns in passing these bills that support the protection of our children.

I am averse to speaking up about this issue of the importance of keeping access to pornography away from minors, it is such an embarrassing and distressing, anxiety filled concern for me and for many parents. But I believe it is a dereliction duty of our legislative law makers and parents to not do what we can to protect our children and to defend the integrity of our families. So, I will speak up, asking the help, aid and support of this law-making legislature to support defending the family.

Seventeen years ago, my children were in middle school age 12, 13. We had one computer, paid two different security companies to help monitor access to unwanted information and solicitations, and had the computer in a public part of the house, the screen visible from the kitchen and family room for public monitoring. This was all done very deliberately in the effort to *do all that could be done* to protect my children from unwanted input. No smartphones at that point in time.

One day after coming home from work a little late, my children outside playing with the neighborhood kids, I checked in on the computer. To my horror, there was a very graphic pornographic video on my computer screen. And it was two college boys. One had roofied his roommate and was doing things to him while giving commentary. There is so much wrong about this!!!

My first reaction was solely concerned about what my child had seen and what their take away was. I will state now that pornography not only makes women sex objects, it makes men sex objects too. It dehumanizes both, **uses** both.

The immediate aftermath of this situation was my child pulling away from his loving parents. This separation, secretive, break away was a major component to our relationship strain – which remains to this day.

The original incident was later compounded by a second, occurring seven years after the first, during their college years. I know pornography is addictive. My experiences with loved ones has informed me so. Pornography contributed greatly to brokenness in relationships within my family. It is a source that results in family relationships breaking away from each other, kids breaking away from their parents and family in an unhealthy way. It is this other life they enter into, that they want to keep secret and even separate from the rest of their life, that separates them from family and even healthy future relationships.

What was my recourse to the pornography getting through on my computer that I tried my hardest to keep protected? NOTHING. There was nothing any law, any police, any FBI could or would do to help support me in my efforts to protect my children from unwanted pornography.

These bills, HB 2592 and SB 394 can help protect children, their families and the future families of these minors. These bills can make the law to penalize pornographic websites for failing to verify that their users are at least eighteen years old. It is imperative for a law to be established that enables parents to be supported by a law that will help to protect their children. In short, it tells Kansans that minors can and will be protected from the harmful effects of pornography. It is our duty to do so. It is your duty to do so.

For those who are concerned about the First Amendment of free speech. I understand and even agree with free speech. However, the concern here should be about the timing of when this free speech applicable. Is it appropriate for a six-year-old to know their times tables? Even before they know addition? Is it appropriate to expect a middle schooler to know college level algebra before they've learned basic algebra? Of course not. Why then do we expect minors to synthesis pornography before they have enough developed cognitive brain development, and healthy relationship skills? They cannot. They do not have the acquired knowledge and understanding through thought and experience. They don't have anything close to wisdom to understand the harmful effects of pornography.

It is nonsense to use the argument of the First Amendment. From the New Oxford American Dictionary *"Pedagogy tells us the about the theory and practice of learning, and how this process influences, and is influenced by the social, political and psychological development of learners. It is the study of how knowledge and skills are imparted and in what context, and it considers the interactions that take place during learning."*

Do you law makers want to be responsible for ignoring the facts of the important ways people learn? The way minors learn?

For those that approve of pornography and the free market, (and remember pornography is a great deal about a money-making business. It's a monetization of people's bodies- for profit) do you want this readily available to minor children? What is the big rush to let minors see this stuff? To become a part of an economic ill-gotten gains before they are *developed enough* to make this personal decision.

This is an opportunity to do the right thing for children, for minors. Please vote for these bills HB 2592 and SB 394

Thank you for your time and genuine consideration in this important matter. Giving parents and guardians the law to support the healthy development of minors.

S.D.