

Pornography and Crime:  
Reporting the presence of pornography connected to crime

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I am submitting written testimony in support of SB 92, the reporting of pornographic materials during the investigation of sexual crimes. There are many reasons why this is an important bill and why this bill can help solve the kinds of psychological and criminal problems that I have treated in my therapy practice everyday for the last 28 years.

I specialize in the treatment of sexual violence victims and perpetrators. I had been doing this work for more than 10 years before I realized that I had not treated one case of sexual violence that did not include pornography. The types of cases that I treat are varied and differ in many important ways. Sexual harassment cases are different from rape cases which are different from incest cases. However, they all involved pornography.

Most people understand intuitively or from looking at research or clinical experience that there is a connection between using child pornography and the behavior of child rape. The images in child pornography are Permission-Giving for sexual behavior between adults and children. Child rapists tell me they “know” that kids like to have sex with adults because they have seen their smiling faces in the child pornography they access on the Internet.

The same people who understand this connection between child pornography and child rape may forget that adult pornography is Permission-Giving as well: for adult rape, for combining sex with violence, for the message that when women say no they mean yes, for male sexual entitlement to have sex with whomever they want, whenever they want, however they want, for the message in pornography is that male sexuality is viciously narcissistic, predatory and out of control and that female sexuality is insatiable and indiscriminant. Pornography is hate speech against men and women and is mis-education about sexuality. It is also Permission-Giving for psychological pathology and crime.

The crimes that are connected to these Permission-Giving Beliefs which are spread in pornography are not just incest and child rape. They are adult rape, sexual harassment, adult and child prostitution, adult and child sex trafficking and domestic violence combined with sexual assault. All of these connections with pornography have been found in both clinical experience and in research.

Research also indicates that there three factors that predict sexual violence. (1) Hostility toward women (2) The belief that sex is a non-intimate, recreational, adversarial behavior (3) The use of pornography. In fact, all of these factors are connected to the use of pornography.

My own research indicates that the earlier young males are exposed to pornography the more likely they are to engage in non-consensual sex and the more pornography females use the more likely they are to be victims of non-consensual sex. Pornography is an equal opportunity toxin for both males and females.

You can find these research results in the research summary I have provided with a listing of 29 findings showing the connection between pornography and crime. Also provided are the findings, recommendations and conclusions of 54 distinguished signatories of the "Social Costs of Pornography".

While today we are focusing on the crimes connected to pornography, the research indicates that the social, psychological, physical, developmental, financial and spiritual consequences of pornography are enormous as well. Due to universal availability of pornography on the Internet the world is facing a sexual tsunami unprecedented in history. We know that sexual abuse is the most effective way to produce psychiatric problems in adults and it shows up in the histories of adult psychiatric patients more than any other factor.

To help stem the tide of this criminal and psychological catastrophe, we need laws, we need enforcement, we need education, we need research, we need treatment. A good first step would be to have police report the presence of pornography connected to crimes. They may find what I have found that there is no case of sexual violence that does not involve pornography. Knowledge is power but once you know the truth, silence is complicity. I urge you not to be silent. I urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you,

*ORIGINAL SIGNED*

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