

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

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Thank you for allowing me to address you today regarding this important Bill.

I am speaking today in support of the passage of SB 92, *“The reporting of pornographic materials during the investigation of sexual crimes.”* There are several reasons why this is an important bill and why this bill can play an important and effective role in criminal justice and corrections.

I was honored to have a 24-year law enforcement career with service to the Kansas community as a state trooper, KBI special agent, and finally as the former sheriff of Johnson County, Kansas. During my career, I have investigated numerous homicides and sexual related crimes and have seen the effects of pornography first hand in crime scenes across Kansas.

When investigating many of these sexually related crimes, I was witnessed too and often times seized pornographic photographs and videos. The evidence gathered assisted in my investigatory efforts in identifying victims, and identifying if future victims were in the sight of the offender. Occasionally, the photos were altered to personalize the crime committed, or victims of those crimes. There is no question to me that pornography is the fuel that acts as a catalyst for fantasy-driven behavior. And there's no doubt in my mind that pornography plays an important part in violent sex crimes. When one looks at these cases, one can see that the offender can solidify the fantasy of the criminal act by having visual pornography that addresses a specific desire. This evidence, in itself, would require that a competent investigator should list and possible even seize the elements of that crime committed.

For nearly ten years, I was the agent that led the KBI's Clandestine Lab Response Team, which was responsible for the investigation into such drugs as Methamphetamine. The causal link between methamphetamine abuse and sexual deviation is high. In the research that I conducted while a KBI agent and for use in my doctoral dissertation, I found a casual link between pornography, sexual deviant behavior and synthetic drug abuse. The link was further solidified in interviews with offenders, other investigators in Kansas, as well as other investigators from “meth” affected states like Missouri, Illinois, California, Florida and New Mexico. The types of pornography located at clandestine lab scenes included such sexual deviant behavior as pedophilia, hebephilia, sex slavery, sexual

bondage, and even zoophilia. This type of evidence is important to understand and notate in investigations in order to investigate motives of the crime or prevent additional sexual related crimes. There is also other causal research to link the use of pornography with criminal acts and behaviors: Such as:

- Violent depictions are highly likely to lead to calloused attitudes toward rape and rape victims (1).
- Convicted rapists are highly likely to have used porn to ramp themselves up before attacking their victim (2).
- 77-100% of child molesters and pedophiles consume porn regularly (3).
- Hypersexualized people have insatiable appetites for porn (4).
- Rape rates are higher in the countries where porn is readily available (5).
- Male consumers of porn tend to be more aggressive toward women (6); and
- Exposure to porn appears to increase the use of sexual coercion (7) and increases fantasies of rape (8); and massive exposure to porn encourages a desire for increasingly deviant materials including sadomasochism, rape, torture, and “snuff” films (videos where the woman is brutalized and then murdered) (9).

Finally, most well trained homicide investigators, to include myself, attended former NYPD Homicide Commander Vernon Geberth’s, 40-hour “Practical Homicide School.” This school was mandated for all KBI special agents to attend as a primary school for homicide investigators. Throughout that school, Lt Commander Geberth, constantly emphasized the link between sexual deviant behavior and homicide suspects, and that this link should always be notated and investigated. He emphasized these for two reasons: One, the information could be a mitigating factor in the commission of the crime and evidence needed to be gathered to prove the motive of the crime. And two, an investigator may find evidence of a new crime or victim in which to investigate.

I ask you all to seriously consider SB 92 as an important tool for law enforcement and in the protection of all Kansan’s.

Thank you.

References/

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