

TESTIMONY OF PHILLIP COSBY
AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS AND MISSOURI
KANSAS HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Proponent for SB 104

Chairman Kelley and honorable members of the House Education Committee, my name is Phillip Cosby. I am a native of Kansas and currently the American Family Association State Director for Kansas and Missouri. I am honored to have the privilege to speak to you in support of **SB 104**, the “Children’s Internet Protection Act”.

If adopted, Kansas will join twenty-seven other states that have implemented constitutionally sound measures to protect children at public schools and libraries from the harmful materials that are virtually ubiquitous on the Internet. “Extreme Tech”, an Internet research company recently released data indicating that nearly 30% of all Internet bandwidth is consumed by full streaming pornographic videos. Internet pornography is a hugely profitable and highly addictive commodity that is delivering toxic and harmful effects within our communities. Law enforcement, health care professionals and legislatures are behind the curve in grasping the scope of the damage.

These past ten years I have spoken to thousands of Kansans citizens and civic officials concerning the negative effects of Sexually Oriented Businesses in communities. The evidence of harm is not anecdotal; the lawful restrictions on the sex industry are based on measurable toxic effects on communities. The right of communities to regulate these brick and mortar establishments has been constitutionally upheld for over forty years. The documented effects are primarily increased crime, increased STD’s, blight, property devaluation, prostitution, human trafficking and drug trafficking. One judge commented, “it is not just the evidence of negative effects, it is common sense.” In like kind, in 2003 the U.S. Supreme court upheld CIPA due to the cyber toxic effects on children.

In your folder you have multiple documents, from every discipline; professional, peer-reviewed research on the harmful effects of pornography. But to simplify, it is common sense! Cyber space is a domain that we are interacting with hourly and not everything that our children are exposed to contributes to healthy development. The adolescent development stage in the life cycle is especially vulnerable to influence, be that good or bad.

We limit all kinds of things when it comes to our children. We rate movies relative to their appropriateness, the Supreme Court of the United States recently upheld the right of the FCC to enforce public broadcast decency standards between the hours of 6:00 a.m. till 10: p.m. based on its harmful effects on children, we restrict vehicle licensing, gambling, tobacco and alcohol consumption, and we even withhold the right to vote until what we have decided is a fitting age for mature decision making.

It is cause and effect: garbage in, garbage out. We can’t afford to be indifferent, in denial or dismiss as harmless fun the pervasive flood of highly sexualized materials.. This action to protect children does not deserve the mischaracterizations of “censorship” or “book burning”.

Legislative bodies are recognizing and reacting to the cause and effect relationship of the pornography industry on individual and community life. This is a compelling governmental interest as well as a growing public safety and health issue. Thank you for your time.

Supporting Documents in folder:

CD of the 214 page report “*Adult Pornography and Child Sexual Exploitation*” Robert Peters
Booklet. “*Social Costs of Pornography*” Witherspoon Institute
Research Finding Summaries by Dr. Mary Anne Layden
The harms of pornography exposure among young children and young people with research list