



NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Chairman Lynn, Vice Chair Mannion, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Bella Peracchi, and I am from Stratham, New Hampshire. I am also a Public Policy Research Associate with the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, an organization dedicated to combatting all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse. Today, I am asking you all to support H.B. 293, Preventing Minors from Accessing Obscenity on Certain Electronic Devices with Internet Access. This bill is a vital step in protecting Granite State's children from exposure to harmful and dangerous material online. Just as we require car manufacturers to include seat belts in cars, this bill simply asks us to add seatbelts for our browsers – an extra layer of protection for children online.

We are living in an era of unprecedented technological advancement. Growing up, my parents taught me how to stay safe on the internet: don't talk to people you don't know online, don't post anything you might regret, keep your accounts private, and so on. I have stayed true to my parents' rules. Even though I have done everything I can to protect myself online, I still have been exposed to obscene content unintentionally. Children are just a click or a scroll away from being exposed to such content, and viewing such material is becoming increasingly normalized.

The effects of early exposure to pornography on young minds is well documented. A Common Sense Media survey conducted in 2022 found that 75% of boys and 70% of girls ages 13 to 17 had consumed pornography.¹ Within that group of children, 15% first saw pornography at 10 years old or younger, and 54% at 13 years old or younger. This material, often depicting disturbing content such as sexual assault, violence, and aggression, influences the way children perceive and process these behaviors. As they consume and internalize this content, its impact becomes evident. Heidi Olson, a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner at a large children's hospital, explains that children aged 11 to 15 have been the largest group of sexual assault perpetrators at her facility for the third consecutive year.²

Research demonstrates the strong correlation between pornography, sex trafficking, and sexual exploitation. Pimps and traffickers often use sexually explicit material to groom children until the sexual aggression becomes normalized.³ Last year, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline received 45,746 reports of unsolicited obscene material sent to children.⁴ Viewing pornography can often contribute to the purchasing of sex, which in turn drives the demand for sex trafficking and exploitation. For example, Pornography is directly tied to sex trafficking, as evidenced by the case of GirlsDoPorn, where women were trafficked under false pretenses and filmed for pornographic content, which was then monetized and distributed

¹ Michael B. Robb, PhD, and Supreet Mann, PhD, *Teens and Pornography* (Common Sense Media, 2022), <https://www.common sense media.org/research/teens-and-pornography>.

² Heidi Olson, "Sexual Assault Expert Warns of a Heartbreaking Trend in Children," *Defend Young Minds*, July 10, 2018, <https://www.defendyoungminds.com/post/sexual-assault-expert-warns-heartbreaking-trend-children>.

³ U.S. Department of Justice, *National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2016), <https://www.justice.gov/psc/docs/natstrategyreport.pdf>

⁴ National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, *CyberTipline Data*, accessed February 4, 2025, <https://www.missingkids.org/cybertiplinedata>.

on mainstream platforms like Pornhub, generating substantial profits for both the producers and the platform.⁵ These victims are ignored, as the producers and platforms are making profits by abusing and exploiting them.

One way to protect children is by making it harder for them to access sexually explicit material, which is the purpose of HB 293. Every phone comes preloaded with existing filtering software; this bill simply requires manufacturers to turn these filters “ON” by default when a device is activated by a minor. In fact, Apple did exactly this for smartphones used by children under 12. This bill is both practical and effective, ensuring a pragmatic approach to policymaking in New Hampshire. We must require the manufacturers to add a seatbelt to their browser, so our children can stay buckled up and safe from harm online. Here in New Hampshire, we live free or die; this bill is an opportunity to save lives.

I’ve always been proud of my home state. Even as I attend college in New York and recently spent a semester in Washington, D.C., I often find myself sharing that I am from New Hampshire. I take pride in my New Hampshire roots, and I truly love being a Granite Stater. I want to maintain that sense of pride, which can only happen if we prioritize keeping our children safe. New Hampshire become a leader in protecting children online. So, I speak to you all, I ask you to please pass HB 293. Thank you for your time and consideration.

⁵ David K. Li, "Pornhub to Pay More Than \$1.8M to Resolve GirlsDoPorn Sex-Trafficking Probe: Feds," *New York Daily News*, December 21, 2023, <https://www.nydailynews.com/2023/12/21/pornhub-to-pay-more-than-1-8m-to-resolve-girlsdoporn-sex-trafficking-probe-feds/>.