SENATOR JESSE KIEHL

Sponsor Statement
Senate Bill 247

COMPUTER-GENERATED
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL

Alaska has strong laws against pictures or videos that show minors engaged in sex acts. When these laws passed, this material could only mean an actual child was exploited. Today, technology makes it possible to manufacture images and videos on a spectrum: from putting a real child's face on someone else's body to synthetic images and audio not recognizable as any specific minor. The most sophisticated of these fabrications, made using artificial intelligence software, are in fact pieced together from images of millions—if not billions—of real children.

The fast spread of AI tool use makes it exponentially more difficult to prosecute those who peddle images of children being sexually abused. But the harms are just as serious. Slight alterations of recognizable children harm the child's reputation, can be used in blackmail, and may originate from actual exploitation. Moderate alterations still rely on—and depict—actual sex acts that are often illegal. These altered images risk the same or greater harms to these children. Even images collaged pixel by pixel using AI drain resources from law enforcement and can be used by those who groom children to warp a young person's sense of what is normal. These videos at their core represent harmful behavior.

SB 247 combats this influx of computer-generated child sexual abuse material involving children. To avoid conflict with First Amendment rights, the bill employs the *Miller* test, which the U.S. Supreme Court created to determine what is obscene and therefore not protected by the First Amendment. By criminalizing both manufacture and distribution of synthetic CSAM, SB 247 deters and punishes those who would use emerging technologies to prey on children.