



Sponsor Statement

HB 254 An Act Relating to Liability for Publishing or Distributing Pornography to Minors

"An Act relating to liability for publishing or distributing pornography to minors on the Internet."

House Bill 254 stands out as a crucial legislative initiative, addressing the growing public health crisis related to the influence of pornography on minors. It serves as a proactive measure to disrupt a tool employed by traffickers, preventing easy access to young would-be victims through explicit content.

Recent years have witnessed an alarming exposure of minors to pornography, facilitated by advances in technology and the widespread availability of explicit content on the internet. This early exposure contributes to the hyper-sexualization of young minds, promoting bullying in schools and setting unreasonable self-expectations, necessitating urgent legislative action.

House Bill 254 recognizes the disturbing connection between pornography and exploitation. It acknowledges that individuals involved in pornography may be victims of exploitation, blurring the line between consensual adult participation and sex trafficking. Some are forced into participating against their will, revealing a sinister aspect of the adult industry.

The bill also addresses the link between the demand for pornography and the demand for commercial sex, including trafficking victims. The normalization of explicit content in society is argued to contribute to an increased demand for sexual services, perpetuating sex trafficking. Organized crime networks profit from both pornography and exploitation, utilizing explicit content as a lure to manipulate and control vulnerable individuals.

One alarming aspect necessitating urgent legislative intervention is the role of pornography in the tactics employed by human traffickers. By restricting minors' access to explicit material, House Bill 254 serves as a crucial tool in the fight against human trafficking, contributing to the overall well-being and safety of the next generation.

In conclusion, passing House Bill 254 is an urgent and necessary step in safeguarding the mental, emotional, and physical health of our youth. It reflects a collective responsibility to create a secure and nurturing environment, allowing minors to develop into healthy, well-adjusted individuals free from the corrosive influence of explicit material.