![Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota logo](CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS OF NORTH DAKOTA)

Senate Judiciary Committee
Testimony In Support of House Bill #1386
3-26-25

Madame Chair and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Greg Kasowski, Director of the Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota. I am here in support of House Bill 1386.

Our Children's Advocacy Centers work daily with children who have experienced child sexual abuse and other forms of child maltreatment. We see firsthand the devastating impact of these crimes. The emergence of AI-generated child sexually abusive materials (CSAM) represents a terrifying new frontier in child maltreatment.

Traditional CSAM involves the actual abuse of a child. AI-generated CSAM, while not involving a real-time physical act of abuse, is no less harmful. It creates hyper-realistic depictions of children engaged in sexual activity, which perpetuates the sexualization and exploitation of young people.

Why AI-Generated CSAM Is Not a "Harmless" Crime

Some individuals may argue that AI-generated CSAM is harmless because there are no actual, real victims. There are several reasons this is not true.

- **AI-Generative Platforms Train on Actual CSAM:** Research shows that some generative AI platforms have trained their models on known CSAM.[1] The very nature of generative AI means the images must be modeled from existing imagery. In this case, it's an amalgamation of pixels diffused from images of real CSAM to create the AI CSAM.

- **Endorsement of AI-Generated CSAM Perpetuates and Normalizes Child Exploitation:** Allowing any form of CSAM to exist, even CSAM where the victim is not a real living breathing child, risks the perpetuation of child exploitation and the

---

[1] Stanford University. Investigation Finds AI Image Generation Models Trained on Child Abuse. Stanford University: Cyber Policy Center, 17 Aug. 2023.

normalization of child sexual abuse. Furthermore, it desensitizes our society to the harm of child sexual abuse, which has devastating consequences. Condoning any form of its presence is frightening.

- **AI-Generated CSAM May Lead to Hands-On Child Sexual Abuse:** Although no studies exist as to whether *AI-generated* CSAM consumption leads to hands-on child sexual abuse, studies have shown that a majority of perpetrators of *traditional* CSAM have also conducted hands-on child sexual abuse.[2]

- **Investigators Examining CSAM May Experience Vicarious Trauma:** We must not forget those working on the front lines of these criminal cases. Imagine having to sift through this content day after day, month after month, year after year. Individuals on the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Taskforce, human service zone professionals, attorneys, and our CAC staff are affected by the proliferation of this content. Allowing any form of this content, even if it doesn't contain a real-life victim, negatively impacts these front-line workers.

In conclusion, House Bill 1386 is a proactive step toward protecting our children and preventing child abuse. I urge the committee to request a DO PASS on House Bill 1386.

Madame Chair and members of the committee, I appreciate your time and consideration of this bill and will try to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Greg Kasowski
Executive Director
Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota

---

[2] Bourke, M. L., et al. The Use of Tactical Polygraph with Sex Offenders. Journal of Sexual Aggression, vol. 21, no. 3, 2014, pp. 354–67.

Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota

www.CACND.org
director@cacnd.org
701.301.3701