

February 4, 2025

TO: Chairwoman Humphries of the House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Mike Kagay, District Attorney for Shawnee County
RE: Proponent Testimony for HB 2183

Good Afternoon Chairwoman Humphries and Members of Committee:

I serve as the Shawnee County District Attorney, and as a member of the KCDA board. I am here to voice my strong support for HB 2183, which seeks to modernize Kansas statutes to address crimes involving child sexual exploitation, unlawful transmission of visual depictions, and breaches of privacy, particularly in the digital age.

As a prosecutor, I have seen firsthand the devastating impact of child sexual abuse and exploitation on victims, their families, and our communities. I want to emphasize a grim but consistent reality in these cases: offenders who commit child sexual abuse almost always possess or produce child sexual abuse materials (CSAM). These materials are not only evidence of abuse but also perpetuate the victimization of children, as the images and videos are shared and consumed by others who exploit them.

This legislation equips law enforcement with an essential tool to identify offenders and prevent further harm to children. Offenders who possess or distribute visual depictions, whether real or artificially created, often leave behind digital trails. These can lead investigators to uncover hidden victims or other evidence of abuse. By expanding the legal framework to include AI-generated images, we increase our ability to identify offenders and intervene before they cause further harm.

By including photographs, videos, and images created or modified through artificial intelligence or other digital means, this bill ensures that law enforcement and prosecutors can address the evolving methods offenders use to exploit children. In recent years, we have seen offenders use AI-generated content to create realistic depictions of child abuse that are indistinguishable from real images. This technology creates new dangers for children and provides offenders with new ways to harm.

Finally, the inclusion of provisions that address AI-modified images of adults ensures that our laws remain relevant in protecting all individuals from harassment, intimidation, and exploitation. As prosecutors, we must be able to respond swiftly and effectively to crimes involving these new technologies.

In closing, I urge you to support HB 2183 because it empowers law enforcement and prosecutors to adapt to the evolving methods offenders use to harm children and invade our privacy. This legislation sends a clear message that Kansas will not tolerate the exploitation of our most vulnerable citizens. By enacting this law, you are providing us with the tools necessary to protect children, identify offenders, and prevent future harm.