

STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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STEPHEN OWENS  
74TH DISTRICT

March 7, 2020

Chairman Richard Wilborn  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
Kansas Senate  
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: **SUPPORT** of HB 2546

Chairman Wilborn & Members of the Committee:

No person should ever share pictures or videos of themselves nude. However, this is a common occurrence in High Schools throughout Kansas. As a father of two teenage daughters (who thankfully have never done this) I see the requests they get and how commonplace it truly is. It is tragic; but what is more tragic is when they fall into the hands of someone they weren't intended for and extortion occurs. It could even lead to Human Trafficking.

HB 2546 would create the crime of sexual extortion, which would be defined as communicating by any means a threat to injure the property or reputation of a person, commit violence against a person, or distribute an image or video of a person that is of a sexual nature or depicts such person in a state of nudity.

The bill also would amend the Kansas Offender Registration Act to add a person convicted of the new crime, when one of the parties involved is less than 18 years of age, to the definition of "sex offender", and require offender registration for 15 years.

Please join with your colleagues in the House (which passed this bill unanimously) to criminalize sexual extortion.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Stephen Owens*

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