

Senate Bill 64, 2017 Testimony Submission

Requested by the Psychiatric Review Board

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Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary:

I am submitting testimony to request that “*sexual conduct disorders*” NOT be excluded in the definition of “mental disease or defect/qualifying psychiatric or developmental condition,” because it most certainly is BOTH of those things, regardless of what you call it every few years.

I’m also concerned that by qualifying illegal sexual misconduct as a “developmental condition,” then it might affect sentencing options for pedophiles in the future. I’m not sure what they’re being called nowadays, but to clarify, I’m talking about people sexually attracted to children and that act on that attraction either personally and physically, or by viewing child porn and enjoying vicariously the abuse of children. I actually know and have debated people that think viewing child porn should be decriminalized, and I know that some within your circles might advocate for it as a way to reduce the incarcerated population, but I hope you will forever reject that policy goal if it ever officially makes it into a bill.

Some might argue that it depends on if it’s the primary attraction, or if it was cultural influence, but once someone makes it to the criminal justice system for sexual acts with children, we have a responsibility to keep that person off the streets for the rest of their life in the majority of cases.

Right now there is a belief being tossed around that people can “age out of criminality,” and age out of the justice system, and I support the numbers behind that. It’s true. However, that is not true when it comes to sex crimes. Thanks to erectile dysfunction medication, what would once naturally inhibit a man of a certain age with a “sexual conduct disorder” from breaking the law has now become a favorite pill to pop right before committing the very crimes that this bill would help.

The only time I would say that a convicted male pedophile should be released from custody is if he agrees to surgically surrender his weapon of choice.

Indulge me for a moment about something a little off topic, but still related.

I think we all know that the state faces some budget issues, and we’re currently out of compliance with different federal laws and someone has apparently rejected the notion that we ever have to be in federal compliance with the online sex offender registry, but I hope someone is taking note and paying attention to what some of our state’s finest journalists are highlighting, like Maxine Bernstein and Joe Douglass, because they’ve done all the work for you; they’ve collected data that some people pay millions to collect, and they’ve done it for free. They’ve done it for us.

I think it's time to take this issue seriously. Sexual assaults present a unique but not hopeless situation for law enforcement.

I hope you'll reject this bill in its entirety or at least the portion relating to "sexual conduct disorders."

I wish I could be there in person to testify, but I have been called to testify at a trial for someone with a "sexual conduct disorder" this morning.

Thank you.