

H.R. 8

Resolution Admonishing and Censuring Judge Don M. Torgerson

House Amendments

Amendment 1

March 02, 2026 12:48 PM

Representative **Karen M. Peterson** proposes the following amendments:

1. *Line 29 through 44:*

29 images and videos of prepubescent children being raped or sexually assaulted;
30 WHEREAS, Judge Torgerson, after reviewing two of the illicit videos that were in the
31 defendant's possession involving the sexual assault of children, commented, "I've seen worse";
32 { WHEREAS, at the hearing, Judge Torgerson sentenced the 22-year old defendant to 112 }
33 { days already served in jail, despite the presentence investigation report's recommended 210
34 { days of jail time and the prosecutor's request for prison time to reflect the defendant's }
35 { horrendous crimes; }
36 WHEREAS, Judge Torgerson commented that the served time was a lot of jail time for
37 someone the defendant's age "who comes from some level of privilege";
38 WHEREAS, Judge Torgerson stated that the defendant could help others in the defendant's
39 situation and had more of a voice than some because the defendant comes from a background
40 of some privilege { , indicating that this opportunity was a consideration for issuing a lighter }
41 { sentence } ;
42 WHEREAS, while public officials, including judges, may occasionally misspeak or poorly
43 phrase their thoughts when speaking extemporaneously, at those times the correct course of
44 action is to take responsibility for any misstatements and apologize;

2. *Line 63 through 71:*

63 political affiliation. . .":
64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Utah House of Representatives strongly
65 condemns Judge Torgerson's statements minimizing the severity of child rape.
66 { BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Utah House of Representatives condemns Judge }
67 { Torgerson's calculation that a defendant's privilege qualifies the defendant for a lighter }
68 { sentence despite the defendant's heinous actions victimizing vulnerable children. }
69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Utah House of Representatives finds Judge
70 Torgerson's conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice and brings his judicial office
71 into disrepute.