

# Vote YES on HB 149 to protect women and children

## GLOBALLY

- In 2024, **63 million** files of Child Sex Abuse Material (CSAM) circulated online in 2024
- Google returns **920 million** videos on a search for "young porn"
- Internet child pornography has **quadrupled** from 57,000 webpages (2016) to 275,000 webpages (2023)

## UTAH

- In 2024, over **8,324** reports of CSAM in Utah
- In 2024, only **4** out of every 100 sexual assault cases in Utah were prosecuted
- In 2025, Utah's Internet Crimes Against Children prosecutions increased by more than **100%**

EACH NUMBER IS A **Victim**

## HB 149 Protects Utah's Children & Rape Victims



Creates a legal pathway for victims



Makes violators liable to victims



Demands websites remove illegal content

2023 Revenue for the porn industry was **\$13 billion** in the United States



The *NYT* found "many videos (on porn websites are) recordings of **assaults on unconscious women and girls.**"

**Porn hub**

"Pornhub became my trafficker," said one woman, forced into child rape videos at age 9.

## TAKE ACTION

## Support **HB 149** to protect women & children

Learn more: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children | New York Times | Internet Watch Foundation

# Utah CSAM

## A Sample of Reports from 2024-2025

In 2024, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTip Line documented 8,324 CSAM reports in [Utah](#).

### 2025

August:

A Woods Cross [gymnastics coach](#) and co-owner of USA Gymnastics World, admitted to using hidden cameras in the public restroom with the intent to produce child sexual abuse material. The man stated his intent was "[to capture these images and videos for my own sexual gratification](#)." On the public bathroom hidden camera, investigators found 120 videos involving 15 different minors and two adults. Further, while traveling with a minor under his care, he admitted to placing hidden cameras in the hotel room and bathroom in order to produce child sexual abuse material.

A [South Jordan repeat sex offender](#) violated probation by possessing a laptop and cellphone. On those devices, investigators found he had accessed, viewed, and possessed almost 500 images of child sexual abuse material.

July:

An [illegal immigrant residing in Taylorsville](#) enticed a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct with the intent to produce child sexual abuse material. He also was charged with trafficking narcotics to minors at local high schools.

June:

A [St. George](#) man, a [repeat sex offender](#), was charged with rape and molestation of a child and multiple accounts of sexual exploitation of a child. A victim disclosed to their elementary school teacher that the man had sexually abused her and revealed that the [man](#) had several pictures of naked girls hanging in his room. Investigators verified "images of child sex abuse material hanging on his walls, plus stacks of pornographic images on his printer, in binders and in his closet. He also possessed a digital frame that cycled through approximately 22,000 images of child sexual abuse with victims as young as 8-9 years of age." The man had a long [history](#) of charges.

An [Orem](#) man produced and [uploaded](#) child sexual abuse material to his google photo account. Investigators found a pair of children's underwear and over 400 images and 19 videos of child sexual abuse on his laptop and cellphone, including victims as young as 5 years of age. Seventeen of those sexually explicit images were the children of a woman he had once dated.

A [Salt Lake City](#) man responded to a social media post soliciting for a third party to join in "sexual access to a child under 12 years old." The post was made by an undercover officer. After the initial reply by the Salt Lake man, the conversation moved to another social media platform where the undercover officer claimed "access" to an 11-year-old family member. The perpetrator then began making graphic sexual comments and suggested that they should "hang out" sometime. The undercover officer asked the perpetrator if he had any CSAM to which the perpetrator replied that he had "some old files from old groups" and continued his graphic

comments. He insisted on a meeting. A meeting was scheduled that day and the perpetrator traveled 40 minutes to meet. The total lapse of time between the initial contact and the in-person meeting was 2.5 hours.

A **West Haven** man uploaded and distributed child sexual abuse material on a social media platform. He also engaged in graphic sexual conversations about underage children, some of whom he knew, with other users on social media.

May:

A man from **West Valley** and two men from **Murray** were involved in the sexual assault of a 14-year-old girl. In a Snapchat communication, the girl made plans "to meet up" with the men. They met in a mall parking lot, went to a hookah bar, and then to a party. Afterwards, two of the men sexually assaulted a **14-year-old** in the back of a vehicle. The minor was severely intoxicated and physically incapacitated. The third perpetrator admitted to videoing the incident because he "thought it was funny" and uploaded the video to social media.

A **Kanab** man, and **repeat child sexual abuse offender**, possessed over 1,800 files of child sexual abuse material on his Gmail account. He possessed over 50 CSAM files on his cell phone. A search warrant revealed photos of local, underage females, a jar containing a female child's underwear, and a doll depicting an underage female child.

A **Centerville** man used a social media platform to chat with someone he believed to be a 13-year-old girl. The man was a **repeat offender** of sexually exploiting a minor. The perpetrator discussed engaging sexually with the 13-year-old and shared sexual images of himself and others in the conversations. The two scheduled a meeting in Lehi. As the perpetrator drove to the scheduled meeting place, a local Lehi officer pulled him over. The man unsuccessfully tried to escape. The 13-year-old girl was an undercover police officer.

February:

A **West Jordan** man used social media and texts to communicate with an individual he believed had access to and used his access to abuse a 12-year-old victim. In his communications, he sent over 1,000 files of child sexual abuse material and conveyed interest in engaging in sexual acts with the victim. The individual the offender was communicating with was an undercover officer.

## 2024

May:

A **South Jordan** man uploaded videos and images of child sexual abuse material in chatrooms on social media. Some chatrooms had over 200 participants. An affidavit revealed the man making comments within the chatrooms about an upcoming **sexual abuse** of a child between 8 and 11 years of age who was a close family contact. He also commented, "I like those elementary school aged girls 6-12." In his home, investigators found thousands of images and videos and underwear of a child he had planned to assault. Upon arrest, the **man** admitted to receiving, viewing and distributing child pornography and running a "social networking website or blog of incest pornography."

## An Effective Tool to Combat Illegal, Extreme Pornography

- According to a recent *New York Times* expose, “Google returns 920 million videos on a search for ‘young porn.’” That report noted that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children found 69.2 million online videos or other files depicting child sexual exploitation.
- A report by the *MIT Technology Review* finds that “the U.S. accounted for 30% of the global total of child sexual abuse material (CSAM),” with sites from around the world moving to the United States because of a lack of policing and enforcement. Likewise, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) reports that the level of internet child pornography and CSAM has risen to levels never seen before. In 2016, there were over 57,000 webpages confirmed to contain CSAM. By 2023 that number had quadrupled to over 275,000 webpages.
- Prosecutors usually don’t spend much time on this issue because they are busy with violent crimes and property crimes. As a result, children are victimized over and over again because this illegal content is available on the dark web, but also on so-called legal porn sites, some of which are very popular.
- We need other tools to rein in extreme and illegal pornography. Children are being exposed to violent, illegal and degrading porn at levels never seen before. Kids that are harmed by such material should be able to recover damages.
- The threat of lawsuits will help reduce online exposure to harmful, extreme material and force website operators to proactively remove illegal content.
- This bill language allows people harmed by illegal obscene material to sue the website owners to force them to remove the illegal content and to recover monetary damages for harm.
- Under current NE law (§28-1802 and §28-813) it’s a crime to manufacture, publish and distribute CSAM or obscene material. (CSAM *possession* is also illegal.)
- Child pornography and obscenity are not protected under the First Amendment. *See Roth v. US* (U.S. Supreme Court 1957) (obscenity not protected under First Amendment); *Miller v. California* (U.S. Supreme Court 1973) (defining obscenity); *New York v. Ferber* (U.S. Supreme Court 1982) (child porn not protected under First Amendment).
- Prosecutors are busy with violent crimes and property crimes and not spending time prosecuting criminal obscenity. There is too much of this stuff for prosecutors to handle. Thus, this language is necessary.

## A FLOOD OF INTERNET CHILD PORN

According to a 2020 *New York Times* report ...

- **One of the leading pornographic websites [Pornhub] “is infested with rape videos. ... A search [on the website] for “girls under 18” leads ... to more than 100,000 videos.” [NOTE: Pornhub no longer operates directly in NE, but there are many other similar websites with the same kind of content. Content on Pornhub can also be accessed using a VPN.]**
- **“After a 15-year-old girl went missing in Florida, her mother found her on [a porn website] in 58 sex videos.”**
- **“Sexual assaults on a 14-year-old California girl were posted on [a porn website] and were reported to the authorities ... by a classmate who saw the videos.”**
- **In both of these two cases, offenders were arrested for the assaults, but the porn websites escaped responsibility and made money from the assault videos.**
- **“‘Pornhub became my trafficker,’ a woman named Cali [reported to the *NYT*]. She ... was adopted in the United States from China and then trafficked ... and forced to appear in pornographic videos beginning when she was 9.” Cali told the *NYT* that even though it happened 5 years ago, the videos keep resurfacing on the website. She says, “I may never be able to get away from this[.]”**
- **The *NYT* report found “many videos on [a porn website] that were recordings of assaults on unconscious women and girls. The rapists would open the eyelids of the victims and touch their eyeballs to show that they were nonresponsive.”**
- **The *NYT* report noted that “Google returns 920 million videos on a search for ‘young porn.’”**
- **The *NYT* report said the National Center for Missing and Exploited found there were 69.2 million online videos or other files depicting child sexual exploitation.**

