CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REGARDING CHILD

SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Brady Brammer

Senate Sponsor: Kirk A. Cullimore

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This resolution declares child sexual abuse material to be at odds with the standards of the people of Utah.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

▸ discusses the increased proliferation of child sexual abuse material on the Internet;

▸ outlines how emerging technologies contribute to the proliferation of these heinous materials;

▸ describes the damages caused by child sexual abuse material; and

▸ declares child sexual abuse material, no matter how it is produced, to be at odds with the standards of the people of Utah.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, child sexual abuse material, or CSAM, is any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct that involves the use of a minor in the production of its visuals;

WHEREAS, the exploitation of children to produce CSAM is a vile form of abuse that can lead to severe and long-lasting psychological harm for the children involved;

WHEREAS, the production and distribution of CSAM on the Internet has reached epidemic levels, with millions of images produced every year that victimize the most

30 vulnerable members of our society;

31 WHEREAS, in 2018 alone, there were over 18 million reports of CSAM on the

32 Internet, which totaled more than one-third of all such images ever reported;

33 WHEREAS, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has reported a

34 dramatic escalation in the proliferation of CSAM online over the past five years;

35 WHEREAS, this flood of abuse material has strained law enforcement's ability to

36 identify and prosecute the producers and consumers of these videos and images;

37 WHEREAS, an inability to counter the production and distribution of CSAM

38 contributes to a culture that normalizes the sexual abuse of minors and perpetuates cycles of

39 abuse;

40 WHEREAS, these cycles of abuse pose a significant risk to children's safety by creating

41 an environment where predators can more easily target vulnerable individuals for exploitation;

42 WHEREAS, CSAM also contributes to the desensitization towards sexual exploitation

43 and violence, potentially leading to an increase in related crimes;

44 WHEREAS, exposure to, or involvement in, CSAM can lead to distorted perceptions of

45 healthy sexuality and relationships, impacting the normal sexual development of both victims

46 and viewers;

47 WHEREAS, the advent of images produced by artificial intelligence, or AI, and other

48 digital tools has contributed to the rapid saturation of CSAM online;

49 WHEREAS, recent reports have found that images of child sexual abuse have been

50 identified as part of training datasets for AI image generation, and have likely been used by AI

51 to produce CSAM;

52 WHEREAS, AI and other digital tools are increasingly capable of creating CSAM

53 indistinguishable from CSAM produced using conventional methods; and

54 WHEREAS, it is increasingly clear that the advancing technology of AI is facilitating

55 and contributing to the overwhelming amount of CSAM on the Internet:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the

57 Governor concurring therein, declares child sexual abuse material, whether produced by

58   victimizing recognizable children or by utilizing AI or other digital tools to create composite

59   images, to be patently offensive and a clear violation of the standards of the people of Utah.

60   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor

61   concurring therein, affirms that there is no literary, artistic, political, or scientific value to child

62   sexual abuse material, even if it is produced using AI or other digital tools.