

Chair Novotny & committee members.

My name is Jon Uhler. I am a Licensed Professional Counselor of 30 years, am a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional, and a Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provider, and have worked with 3 primary populations of people: Sexual abuse survivors, severely troubled teens, and sexual perpetrators. My work with sexual abuse survivors has given me an understanding of the profound and lasting impact sexual perpetration has upon the victims. My work with troubled teens has given me an appreciation for the impact of sexual abuse on kids, who grow into troubled teens, who either act-out or act-in their underlying trauma. And, my work with men who've sexually preyed upon minors, which has been garnered from my 11+ years working clinically with such men on Psychology Staff within the PA Dept. of Corrections, where I worked for years with the full continuum of sex offenders, and ran specialized treatment for sexually violent predators, worked extensively with the "worst-of-the-worst" in long-term solitary confinement (in fact, logging more clinical contact hours in that environment than any other prison psychology staff member in the US or Canada), conducted hundreds of forensic risk sex offender risk assessments, written countless Parole evaluations for sexual offenders, was among a select group of prison psychology staff hand-selected to attend a specialized intensive forensic training by Dr. Robert Hare, himself, for Certification in the PCL-R, the Hare Psychopathy Checklist. And, I have conducted sex offender treatment groups for the past number of years, since my retirement from the prison system.

I am the founder of SurvivorSupport.net, ChurchProtect.org, and UnMaskingTheTransMovement.com, each of which have the goal to protect and support survivors of sexual abuse, while helping all good people to understand the best ways to ensure a high bar approach toward the safeguarding against sexual predators. I should also mention that I was featured in the documentary, 'Shattered', produced by the Child Protection League of Minnesota.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the issue and bill that you are considering, as there could not be any more of an important matter than protecting children from predators.

Though you've no doubt heard many reasons floated as to why it is not necessary to strengthen laws related to those who would possess, manufacture, and/or distribute child pornography, and to increase the penalties for such kinds and categories of child offenses, no doubt, those who have attempted to downplay or minimize the need for this important legislation will inevitably be found to not have worked clinically with such adults, and/or certainly not in any actual in-depth manner within a prison setting.

From my 15 years of working clinically with the full continuum of men who have sexually offended and preyed upon adults and minors, I can assure you that the most important thing that can be considered in terms of public safety, and the health, safety, and welfare of minors, is to put the fear of God into the hearts and minds of anyone who would even dare consider sexually

offending, grooming, manipulating, using, violating, and/or exploiting a child in any way, shape, or form.

By the time anyone, but especially men, reach such a point of reprobation, such a point of moral decline, of such a point of perversion, of such twisting of the mind, of such perversion, and such levels of psychopathy, where they have become utterly depraved, utterly given over to a desire to defile and defraud, to mar and scar the soul of a child, and to steal their innocence, and have become so deviant as to find it invigorating to leave a lasting negative effect upon the mind and soul of a child, so as to steal the innocence and sense of self and safety from a child, they have reached a point where they have said to themselves there is no eternal accountability waiting for them, thus they have lost the most important kind of fear, fear that comes from a normal working conscience. Having repeatedly transgressed and violated their conscience over years of time, to where they no longer experience any guilt, remorse, or empathy, there is only one thing left that can serve as a deterrent for them, which is fear of going to prison for an extremely long time. Without this kind of fear, there is no real deterrent. And, without serious punishment for perpetrating such offenses, and harming kids for the rest of their lives, by placing a stumbling block around their neck, which will cause them to stumble over so many of the most important of personal issues for the rest of their life, such as their own safety, self-worth, the impact of their trauma, trust issues, marriage and family issues, and most importantly shame, and the ability to trust others, themselves, and trust that there even is a God.

Having worked with the kind of men who harm children in all sorts of sexually violating ways, I can assure you that you must increase the punishment for such sex offenses to ensure that the citizens and children of Minnesota are protected from such men who would seek to prey upon the most vulnerable. And, if treatment is to be effective among this population of offenders, it will only be as effective to the extent that the men mandated into community-based treatment while on Parole or Probation, to the extent they fear being failed out of treatment and being sent back to prison.

In closing, I would encourage each lawmaker to keep in mind that it is the victims who need our sympathies, NOT the perpetrator and predator. I would urge you to resist the current push (by pro-pedophile sympathizing academics and other misguided professionals who have been intent upon pushing a dangerously flawed myth called, Minor Attracted Adults, or MAPs), who will also attempt to make the case that such adults who sexually offend against a minor by means of possessing child porn (which should be properly referred to as child-rape porn), are likely acting out of their own pain from their own childhood, or because they suffer from a mental illness such as depression or a sexual disorder. Nothing could be further from the truth, because it is not that “hurt people hurt people, but selfish people do.” And, these kinds of men are not impulsive, and not suffering from low-self-esteem. They are deviant, thus predatory.

Thus, the best way to ensure the safety of the children of your state, and the most honoring thing you can do for the victims of such sexual perpetrators, is to send a strong message that “NOT In

Minnesota” you don’t... Don’t you even think about touching, harming, or exploiting a child in our state! The best way to do that is to vote in favor the bill in front of you, House File 127.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Jon K. Uhler, LPC, CSOTP, CCTP