



Glastonbury Police Department

2108 MAIN STREET / P.O. BOX 535 / GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT 06033-0535 / (860) 633-8301
FAX (860) 652-4290

Joint Committee on Judiciary Public Testimony

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5607 March 21, 2016

Good Morning Co-Chairs Senator Coleman, Representative Tong; Vice Chairs Senator Doyle, Representative Fox; Ranking Members Senator Kissel, Representative Rebinbas; and esteemed members of the Committee.

My name is Corey Davis and I am a Sergeant with the Glastonbury Police Department, assigned as the Supervisor for the Connecticut Center for Digital Investigations. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 5607 AN ACT CONCERNING FILM DEVELOPERS AND CAMERA REPAIR PERSONS AS MANDATED REPORTERS in order to add persons who repair cameras or develop or print film, recordings or images to the list of mandated reporters.

The Connecticut Center for Digital Investigations (CDI) is a group of investigators from nine Connecticut police agencies who work together to investigate digital crimes. One of the most common cases we investigate at CDI involves the manufacture, distribution and possession of child pornography. As investigators, we know that child pornography is not a victimless crime. Each image of child pornography we encounter is a crime scene photo, and contains evidence of an actual sexual assault of a child that has occurred. These images are not fantasy. They are not acting. It is real abuse.

For these reasons, I believe it serves the public's best interest for technicians who repair cameras or process film, recordings, or images to be mandated to report these types of abusive images if they should happen to come across them in the course of normal business. In addition to camera repair technicians and photo processors, I feel it would be even more beneficial to add technicians who repair computers and mobile electronic devices to the list of mandated reporters.

In my experience, images of child abuse, such as child pornography, are not often developed into a physical print. With today's technology, most images are





Glastonbury Police Department

2108 MAIN STREET / P.O. BOX 535 / GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT 06033-0535 / (860) 633-8301
FAX (860) 652-4290

photographed using a digital camera or smart phone, then transferred to a computer or mobile device where they are viewed, shared, stored, or traded. Computer technicians and those who repair smartphones, iPods, and tablet devices come in contact with countless devices everyday across the state. Eventually, they are likely to stumble across some images of child pornography. Even if *one* technician discovers *one* image and reports it to their local police department over the life of this statute, it could not only lead to the rescue of a child who is being abused, but also the prevention of many other children from being abused by the same perpetrator in the future.

Even though many good people working in these fields would probably report such images anyway, I'm sure there are a minority who would ignore the images, and not report them to the police, out of fear of breaching customer privacy policies or a loss of future business from publicity of the incident. Adding their titles to the list of mandated reporters would send a clear and unequivocal message to the technology repair industry in Connecticut that they have an ethical obligation to report the discovery of evidence of these heinous crimes. This message could be a force multiplier in identifying images of child pornography, rescuing the children who are victimized, and bringing their abusers to justice.

As an example of precedent, Federal Law¹ already requires Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to report when they become aware of potential child pornography to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). If they don't report they could face fines. Some providers such as Google actively scan for known images of child pornography and report those images to the NCMEC CyberTipline. The tips then get distributed to state and local law enforcement agencies in the jurisdiction where the images originated. Because of this reporting requirement, NCMEC's CyberTipline has led to 4.3 million reports of child exploitation between 1998 and 2015².

I would expect that adding computer, camera, and mobile device repair technicians to the list of mandated reporters in Connecticut would have similar success in identifying these illegal images in our state.

¹ 18 U.S.C. 2258A - REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

² <http://www.missingkids.org/CyberTipline>

