



JOY GOEBEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 5th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

October 31, 2023

Thank you Chairman Spiros and other committee members for taking the time to hear this proposed legislation. The information you will hear today came to me in my first few months of being in office. It was definitely not something on my radar as I started my position in the legislature. But a constituent who worked in law enforcement contacted my office and brought it to my attention. They informed me that there were child sex dolls in our state. Child sex dolls. Not dolls to play with. But dolls created to have sex with that look, feel, and sound like real children.

At first I had a bit of disbelief. But I got on the internet and began doing a few quick searches and knew right away that something had to be done to protect our children from these horrible creations. I have a 10 year old daughter. Some of these dolls had the same size, shape, and similar appearance to my little girl. An age that should be filled with innocent ideas, are instead being portrayed in a sexual manner.

These "dolls" are not what you would normally think of when that word is used. They are extremely life-like. Made of a substance and texture that feels of real skin and body tissue. Manufacturers offer the opportunity to tailor skin, hair and eye color, and body shape. The dolls are made to have similar weight to a child. They can have heaters installed in them to make the dolls feel warm like a real child. They have anatomically correct orifices, including vaginas, anuses and mouths, which are in place specifically for sexual gratification. They are programmable to allow them to "communicate" with the user. Whether the user would like a pliable, willing participant making noises of pleasure, or a non-willing victim emitting sounds of pain, distress, and fear.

There is an argument that these "dolls" are used as substitutes for people who are sexually attracted to children. The theory is that the doll gives them a place to take out their fantasies without actually taking action on a child. But there is no evidence for that.

It is more likely that interaction with child sex dolls will increase the likelihood of child sexual abuse. The user is desensitized to the physical, emotional and psychological damage they inflict. In the mind of the users, the dolls normalize their sexual attraction to children. Those who have experience working to protect our children against sexual predators understand and support the need to prevent these "dolls" from being part of our society.

This proposed legislation makes it a crime to intentionally possess a "child sex doll," that is intended for use in sex acts, for sexual gratification, or for manipulating children into participating in sex acts, instructing children how to participate in sex acts, or normalizing sexual behavior with children. The penalties for the crime vary depending on whether the violation is a repeat offense, how many such dolls are possessed, and past convictions for other crimes against children. The bill also prohibits intentionally selling, transferring, advertising, displaying, or providing a premises for the use of a child sex doll. Similarly, the bill prohibits intentionally manufacturing a child sex doll.

I strongly hope you will support this legislation that works to protect our children. Six other states, Utah, Hawaii, Tennessee, South Dakota, Florida, and most recently Arizona, have already taken a stand to do so. Please end the normalization of sex with children.

Thank you,

Representative Joy Goeben



Oct. 31, 2023

Testimony on 2023 Assembly Bill 329

Relating to: child sex dolls and providing a penalty.

Thank you Chairman Spiros and other committee members for hearing this proposed legislation today. Our world is changing, and with the increase of technological advances can come interesting, innovative ideas that move our world forward. However, technology can also bring advances that are inappropriate, dark, and disgusting.

How many of you have heard about child sex dolls? What are they? First I want to share that they are not child play dolls, or Barbies. These are life-like dolls, mannequins, or robots that resemble a minor. They can be fully customizable in how they look and sound. They are used by adults who have a sexual attraction to children, or pedophiles. Or, instead of calling them pedophiles, some are trying to normalize their behavior and call them minor-attracted persons (MAP's).

Some say MAP's have these "dolls" for non-sexual reasons, which include not being able to have emotional closeness and/or a lack of maintaining viable and real intimate partners. Some say they obtain them to improve their overall life satisfaction and well-being, which includes sexual well-being. Those who own these child sex dolls say they are less likely to go seek the real thing because they can just use, abuse, and fulfill their child sexual fantasies with these dolls. Some argue that child sex dolls offer a safe outlet for those who have a sexual attraction to children. We do not have any clinical data to show that this is true.

As a law enforcement officer, I do not need to wait for data to tell me what these dolls lead to. I have a hard time believing that someone who possesses this kind of doll would not also be acting out their desire in a way that involved a real child. In my conversations with child crimes investigators regarding this legislation, they confirmed that these dolls have always been confiscated alongside child pornography or in conjunction with a crime against a real child.

In April of this year, a local law enforcement agency had contact with a man in the Chippewa Valley area. This man bought a child sex doll online. Now from what I have been told and understand, these child sex dolls are not being manufactured in the United States. This child sex doll came from the Middle East, and the man paid \$30,000 for it. This child sex doll could be programmed to do a lot of things, including heating up to body temperature, shaking and shivering, making sexual sounds, and saying sexual phrases. This man could program this doll to satisfy any sexual desires and fantasy he had.

Another glaring, dark, and disturbing reality to add to this is that these dolls can be made to resemble children as young as infants. I was a sensitive crimes investigator for approximately 5 years. I investigated child sexual assaults, including infants. These instances are hard to forget. If you have children, if you have grandchildren, if you have nieces and nephews, would you want any of them to be made to resemble a child sex doll? These dolls are customized to whatever age group one desires, whatever sex one desires, whatever skin color one desires; whatever you want them to look like, it can be done.



Let's think about the end result of normalizing these dolls. Wouldn't on-demand sexual access to these child sex dolls increase the need for sexual activity when a person is aroused? Those with uncontrollable sex drives, how would it affect them? How often would the need for sex with a child be there? Would there be an increased mindset of sexual entitlement? I want it now, so I get it now. Given the technology advances and programming available, there could be perceived consent from these child sex dolls, which could increase the perception of these owners that children are sexual beings who can give valid consent to sexual activities. If one were to have this mindset, it would lead to more offending behaviors with our children.

This topic has been on the radar since 2019, when other states started to outlaw child sex dolls. States like Florida, Tennessee, South Dakota, Hawaii, and recently Arizona have signed legislation banning them. At the federal level, the Creeper Act, which makes it a federal crime to import, transport, buy, sell, distribute, or possess a child sex doll, has been trying to pass since 2017. England has banned them, and Canada treats the dolls as child pornography. Wisconsin has the opportunity to take a proactive step in addressing this issue.

The legislation would make possession of a child sex doll a felony and punishable up to 3.5 years in prison. Having three or more child sex dolls and a second offense would include up to six years of prison. A third or subsequent offense would be punishable up to 10 years. If the child sex doll resembled a specific minor, the offender would face up to 15 years in prison for a first offense. Subsequent offenses would be punishable up to 25 years.

Some would say they want to base laws on data and evidence rather than emotion, and would add that this legislation is unconstitutional due to an invasion of privacy. They would add that we are obligated as a society to provide a harmless outlet for MAP's to use these child sex dolls, preventing sexual assaults against children. But those who purchase these child sex dolls already have in their mind the group they want to target. They are seeking an outlet trying to fulfill their sexual desires and fantasies, all which involve our children. The need for these child sex dolls are temporary, and in my opinion they will eventually seek out the real thing. Why do they need to go online and buy them, if they are not seeking the real thing at the time of purchase? They have it in their mind already.

As a cop, dad, and grandfather, I will never be a part of anything that normalizes sex with our children. I will do anything and everything to protect the innocence of our children against adults who want to victimize them because of their own sexual deviant and dark desires. I encourage you to support this legislation. Let's keep the door closed on destructive sexual behavior in our state. Thank you, and we will take any questions you have.

Thank you,

Senator Jesse James

My name is Zach Jakel, and I am an Investigator with the Village of Ashwaubenon-Department of Public Safety. I have been in law enforcement for the past ten years and seven of those years have been in investigations. I started working in Sensitive Crimes in May of 2020. This position has led me to working homicides, domestic abuses, sexual assaults, and crimes against children. I am also trained as a child forensic interviewer and speak with them about different incidents that happened to them, such as drug endangerment, domestic abuse, and sexual assaults against them.

I am here to talk about child-like sex dolls. I first heard about these dolls while working with my partner, Investigator Aaron Dufek. Investigator Dufek works a lot on Internet Crimes against Children cases, and he came across a bulletin from another law enforcement agency warning about these child-like dolls and individuals having sexual intercourse with these dolls and posting them online.

Over my years in law enforcement, I have seen and heard some horrific scenes and stories, but nothing has flipped my stomach more than hearing about these dolls. My first thoughts were likely similar to most people's thoughts: "I did not even know these existed." The fact these dolls do exist makes me squirm. These dolls are inherently gross and directly related to other pedophilic acts.

Individuals that have a pedophilia disorder do not obviously start out at a level of having sexual encounters with children. It starts with fantasies and role playing in their mind. This can lead to viewing child pornography to self-pleasuring revolving around child pornography. It may then lead to making child pornography or stalking a child in real life. This can then finally lead to someone acting out their fantasies and sexually assault a child, when that opportunity comes.

Not all people with pedophilic behavior end up sexually assaulting children. But what prevents them from acting out these fantasies? Pedophiles know these actions are socially wrong and have feelings of shame or guilt. They then avoid places with children due to these psychosocial impairments. They avoid social events or family gatherings due to the general fear of being "found out."

There is a report from the Australian Institute of Criminology on this issue which states, "[It is] reasonable to assume that interaction with child sex dolls could increase the likelihood of the child sexual abuse by desensitizing the doll user to the physical, emotional and psychological harm caused by child sexual abuse and normalizing the behavior in the mind of the abuser. At the same time, there is no evidence of therapeutic benefit from child sex doll use."

This relates to tolerance. The child sex dolls reinforce sexual attractions to children which over time may lead to engaging sexually with real children to achieve the same level of satisfaction. Sex dolls result in the dehumanization of sex and intimacy by allowing users to physically act out rape fantasies in a way that thoughts and child pornography cannot. When to normalizing of child sexual encounters are normalized by these child sex dolls, the feelings of shame or guilt which was preventing them from sexually offending goes away. The possession of child sex dolls is the promotion of sexual offending and a crime against society.

There are many other crimes against society such as prostitution, pornography, gambling, obstruction, drugs, liquor laws, and weapons. Most of these do not have an individual victim. As a society we must have ethical standards and the possession of child sex dolls and promoting sexual offending crosses that line.

Good Afternoon

My name is Jim Valley and I am a Captain with the Brown County Sheriff's Office. I am in my 28th year of Law Enforcement and have worked and supervised Internet Crimes Against Children cases and sensitive crimes for over 20 years. I have traveled the nation teaching other law enforcement officers how to investigate these crimes for most of my career.

I am here to speak about child sex dolls and the affect they have on children. I have been in Madison before testifying to my knowledge in reference to some other laws and bills that have involved child pornography. I have been able to investigate and assist in investigating hundreds of sensitive crimes with many involving child sex crimes and pedophilia. Child Sex dolls are not new and I have seen them while working cases. Many individuals will privately have them to live out their fantasies and with the internet many want to live their fantasies out live to the world and are able to.

Working many cases that involve children and child pornography I have been able to interview many suspects related to these cases. Since working these cases for many years I have seen the industry and also the way people have evolved.

In the late 90's internet was slow. It was difficult to download movies and images of child sex crimes from others because the files were so big and the internet speed was so slow. Suspects used to have to save everything because of the speed it took to download. Secret networks were easily tracked because offenders had to be online all the time. Evidence was found in abundance because offenders didn't want to have to download again and saved the material.

As the internet got faster, technology and media platforms became more accessible. Networks were a little more underground and harder to track. Offenders who started out being curious, then became larger suspects because of the amount of material they could get their hands on.

Over time we started to see more images and movies. We started to see more cases and started to arrest more offenders for child sex crimes. With this, Offenders started to get smarter but also with the amount of material they started to get desensitized.

What I mean by this is that, I have arrested and interviewed probably close to a hundred offenders and have been involved in many more cases. Many offenders have told me that they have always have had a sexual fascination of children. Many have told me that it started out with just have the ability to look at pornography.

When I talk about being desensitized, I mean the fact that individuals will receive gratification from looking at a certain type of pornography that sometimes doesn't start with looking at children. They will fantasize but at some point they will no longer see the thrill of that type. They will then move on, whether it be a body type or part, and even an age. As they move on, it most likely become the age and they will then go lower in age.

Some of the first questions I ask in the interview is what is your moral level of age. I also ask a question of putting them in a certain place in the community and ask when they see a younger child if they fantasize having a sexual relationship with the child. Most, if not all will tell me their moral level of what age is too young that they would have this sexual relationship with. I have had just about all ages of children under 18 including age 7.

You see, when someone starts off fantasizing with a picture, a person close to them and even a doll they at some point will desensitize themselves from the fantasy. They will have to move on. Giving a human a chance to become bored with an interest at times is not good, especially in the disturbing world of being interested in child sex.

Some of the interviews have lead to this fact that offenders no longer want the pictures or the doll and will muster the courage to violate the real thing. Victims can be all ages but offenders have learned not to assault children that can communicate the assault. They have learned that if they go very young the chances of being caught are less likely. In an FBI study from approx. 6-7 years ago it was thought that 73% of individuals interested in child pornography or sex with child have gone hands on at some point. This means they have also violated a child.

I have even interviewed an offender that would take advantage of a child in full public view by dancing with her while she has a dress on and lifting her up dress using inappropriate hand placement.

Child sex dolls will only continue to allow fantasies to become more real. Once an offender is just tired of the doll that offender will continuing to focus on a real child victim. Allowing the promotion of child sex dolls not only reinforces child sex activities but also allows our children who we need to protect become violated for the rest of their lives.



October 31, 2023

To: Chairman Spiros and Members of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

From: Dean Smith, President Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, Oshkosh Chief of Police

Re: Support Assembly Bill 329, Child sex dolls

Chairman Spiros and committee members, thank you for your willingness to hold a hearing on this important bill. I also want to thank Senator James and Representative Goeben for introducing this bill and working with law enforcement to ensure the safety of all Wisconsinites.

On behalf of our members from across Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association is proud to support Assembly Bill 329.

The sale and use of sex dolls that are made to replicate minors is a troubling occurrence because we often see these dolls influencing their user into real world action. These dolls are often associated with sex crimes against children. The dolls can be very lifelike and provide the user with an experience that is close to reality. One may ask why an individual would want or need a life-like child sex doll. We share that concern.

Sensitive crimes investigators have numerous stories of individuals owning and using these dolls. These investigators have unfortunately seen and experienced many horrific events, but they will attest that few things come close to the depravity that accompanies investigations involving these dolls.

Since owning and using these dolls is often a precursor to actual physical interaction of a pedophile with their victims, we want to discourage their use. Ensuring that these dolls are illegal to own in Wisconsin would add our state to a small but growing list of states that have taken proactive measures to stop the use of child sex dolls.

The Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association supports efforts that ensure the most vulnerable among us are protected.



To: Members, Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice & Judiciary
From: Badger State Sheriffs' Association (BSSA)
Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association (WS&DSA)
Date: October 31, 2023
RE: Testimony in Support of AB 329

Chairman Spiros and Members of the Committee:

The Badger State Sheriffs' Association and Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association respectfully submit this testimony in support of AB 329, which prohibits the possession, manufacturing, and distribution of child sex dolls.

It is unfortunate to even discuss this issue, however it is a hard reality that we must face. Child sex dolls can normalize and perpetuate the sexual exploitation of children. Owning these dolls can desensitize individuals to the horrors of child abuse and blur the line between fantasy and reality. Research has shown a strong correlation between the possession of child sex dolls and child pornography. Individuals who collect child sex dolls may be more likely to engage in the production, distribution, or consumption of explicit images of real children, leading to an increase in child exploitation cases.

Criminalizing child sex dolls will provide law enforcement with a valuable tool to investigate and prosecute individuals who engage in child exploitation-related activities. It will allow us to take proactive measures to prevent potential crimes against children and protect society's most vulnerable members.

We believe that the criminalization of child sex dolls is a crucial step in safeguarding our children and preventing child exploitation. We respectfully urge this committee to pass this important legislation, and we are available to answer any questions.

The Badger State Sheriffs' Association represents all of Wisconsin's 72 elected county sheriffs. The Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association is a professional organization representing over 1,000 members, including sheriffs, deputies, and jail officers. Our organizations have a joint legislative committee and work closely on public safety issues of concern to our members.