

House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

02/15/2024 Upon Adjournment

HB24-1092 Min Sentence Crimes against Prostituted Children

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Jeany Rush For themselves	<p>HB-24-1092 CONCERNING REQUIRING A MINIMUM PERIOD OF INCARCERATION FOR PERSONS WHO COMMIT ACTIONS AGAINST PROSTITUTED CHILDREN</p> <p>TO: STATE, CIVIC, MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE 2-15-24 SPONSOR BRADLEY, VAN WINKLE</p> <p>FROM: JEANY RUSH COLORADO SPRINGS CONCERNED CONSTITUENT</p> <p>VOTE A YES ON THIS BILL</p> <p>My heart goes out to any child which has been prostituted, or anyone who facilitates any such actions. Further my heart goes out to the parents, and to all of us, who are appalled by this type of activity. In my heart I would lock those people away for ever for this. At the very least, We have laws already for crimes against children, and I whole heartedly support a long period of incarceration for those complicit in any way in damaging our children in such horrible ways.</p> <p>Promoting all of the SEL CRT and DEI in our schools also lends itself to a culture of serious hyper sexualization of our youth, putting them in further danger of being led to these types of scenarios. Of the over 400 bills already submitted, very few merit a yes in this day in 2024. Please consider this, in supporting protection of our children! Thank You</p>
Cathy Gardino For themselves	<p>This problem is so much larger than any of us knows. It infects our nation and it has overtaken everything it touches. Daily there are stories or even videos showing young girls trying to use a hand signal to indicate they are being held, prostituted, trafficked... and somehow there perps walk away unscathed. Get back to reality legislators. Punish these perverted perpetrators that rob children of their innocence and inflict so much psychological damage that these kids</p>

	are ruined for life. Make it a class 2 and lock these criminals up. It will only get worse with the invasion. Do the right thing today. Vote yes.
Debra Schmidt Against themselves	So another Bill being run through the military. You are getting ready to codify HB-1076 which entails schools to answer to the State and allows in harmful SEL and The Trevor Project. Now it's minimum sentences for child prostitution? Do you have children? Put the face of your child in your mind and then tell me you can honestly vote for this garbage.

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 24-1092, Protecting Children and Combatting Human Trafficking

Members of State and Military Affairs Committee,

My name is Jessa Dillow Crisp and I am a survivor of child sex and labor trafficking.

Tears flow as I write this letter. Over the years I have suffered physical and emotional harm due to my traffickers and people who paid money to rape me. Scars on my body and between my legs, as well as infertility and complex trauma are haunting reminders of the years that were stolen from me as I was repeatedly raped.

The people who bought me, bought other children, creating a cycle where extreme abuse was perpetrated over and over, leaving us, as victims—to pick up the shattered pieces of extreme trauma. Trauma that my doctors have shed tears over as they have tried to bring humanity to the impact of sadistic trauma inflicted on me.

I say this with respect, but why aren't people who rape children for money, subjected to the same penalties as people who rape and molest children who are not victimized by trafficking? Why did you not protect me? And why aren't we not protecting other children?

Please vote YES on HB 24-1092 to say that we need to hold people who buy children accountable and that all the rapes I experienced as a child matter.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessa D. Crisp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "C" at the end.

Jessa Dillow Crisp
MA, LPC, NCC

Written Testimony in Support of HB 24-1092 Minimum Sentence Crimes Against Prostituted Children Submitted on behalf of City of Colorado Springs

The City of Colorado Springs supports HB24-1092, as we believe these serious crimes involving children are deserving of mandatory minimum incarceration sentences.

Over the past 5 years, the Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) has investigated 127 of the offenses listed in this bill. The crime Soliciting for Child Prostitution comprises 68.5% of these offenses. The offenses also include 14 reports of Pimping of a Child. Human trafficking can be a difficult crime to detect, as victims are often reluctant to report to police or participate in police investigations for many reasons. Law enforcement believes it is a significantly underreported crime.

Based on the known demand for commercial sex acts with children, our investigators could identify many offenders a day in undercover operations if resources allowed. In 2020, CSPD announced eight arrests in an undercover operation involving men seeking to pay to have sex with children under the age of 18. All these individuals were charged with Soliciting for Child Prostitution.

In 2022, a 59-year-old man initiated contact with a person on social media he believed to be a 16 year old girl. The man quickly escalated the conversation to the explicit sex acts he wanted to engage in with the teen, offering to pay if she would have sex with him and his brother. The detective posing as the teen told him she was 16 years old several times. The suspect referred to the teen as “jail bate,” asking if she was “still underage” while continuing to solicit her for sex and making specific arrangements for it to happen. The defendant was charged with several crimes listed in this bill and served no time in prison.

In another case, a suspect advertised a teen girl who lived in Colorado Springs in commercial sex advertisements. In an undercover operation, detectives were able to confirm through the adult suspect that the teen would engage in sex acts for money. Further investigation revealed the adult had nearly 100 “chats” with potential sex buyers soliciting from the commercial sex advertisements for engagements that would include the teen. This suspect did not have a significant consequence for the charges of Pimping a Child.

Under federal law, it is an offense to knowingly recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, obtain, or maintain a minor who would be caused to engage in a sex act. This offense carries a prison sentence of not less than 10 years; in some circumstances, the sentence may be no less than 15 years in prison, depending on the age of the victim and behaviors used to cause them to engage in commercial sex acts. Our experience is the federal government does not have the capacity to prosecute most of these crimes occurring in our state; we need a state law with significant impact to effectively hold offenders accountable.

We appreciate the bill sponsors bringing this important issue forward.

Thank you.

Submitted by: Doug Trainer, Commander, Colorado Springs Police Department, Metro Division with oversight of human trafficking investigations.