



General and Forensic
Psychological Services

Ed Connor, Psy.D.
Sara Jones-Connor, Ph.D.

January 22, 2024

The Honorable Stephanie Dietz
Attorney at Law
Kentucky House of Representatives

Sent via email: stephanie.dietz@LRC.KY.GOV

Dear Ms. Dietz,

My name is Dr. Ed Connor. I am a licensed psychologist in the states of Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana in private practice. I provide general forensic assessments and Sex Offender Risk Assessments at the juvenile, state and federal levels for individuals accused of or convicted of sex offenses. I also conduct screenings for the Catholic Dioceses for seminarian candidates and also candidates for the Hebrew Union College for Rabbi candidates. I also treat adolescents and adults for various sexual disorders and sexual deviancies. My work in this area began in the mid-80s.

I am writing this letter in support of your proposed HB 207.

Since the onslaught of Internet pornography in the mid-90s there have been an increased access to various means of deviant sexual behavior which has now expanded into childlike "sex dolls." The manufacturing, sale and use of such inanimate objects for sexual arousal and sexual gratification purposes is a very alarming trend that over time can lead to dangerous deviant sexual behavior with a living child. Simply stated, childlike "sex dolls" encourage the eroticism of children. An individual who uses a childlike "sex doll" for sexual arousal and gratification purposes need not engage in normal socially appropriate reciprocal intimate interaction for healthy sexual intimacy. Over time, an individual who uses the childlike "sex dolls" for sexual arousal and gratification purposes can gradually become "desensitized" to the erotic dominance and inequality that an individual can exercise over a childlike "sex doll," which eventually could lead to an attempted and/or completed sexual assault of a child.

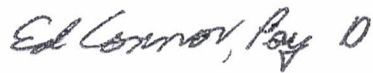
An individual who is interested in and purchases or utilizes a childlike "sex doll" that resembles a child under the age of 12 for sexual gratification undoubtedly meets the criteria for a diagnosis of pedophilia. Pedophilia and of itself can predispose an individual to act out their deviant sexual desires with a living child. If an individual's deviant sexual desires are temporarily gratified with the use of a childlike "sex doll," it is reasonable to believe that over

time the inanimate childlike object may no longer provide the same level of deviant sexual arousal and the individual may eventually turn to a living child to act out their deviant sexual fantasy.

The premise that engaging in sexual behavior with a childlike "sex doll" could decrease the probability of the individual acting out the deviant sexual fantasy with a living child has no basis in longitudinal credible scientific research. To encourage this type of sexual deviancy to further manifest in our society would contribute to the unhealthy eroticization of children.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter. If you need any additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Connor, Psy D". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Respectfully,".

Ed Connor, Psy.D.
Licensed Clinical Psychologist
In Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana