

Beverly LaHaye
Chairman



Patricia Thompson
State Director

March 5, 2013

The Honorable Tom Ammiano, Chairman
Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 20 Obscene Matter: - Minors

Dear Chairman Ammiano:

Your committee will consider AB 20 (Waldron) on March 12. This measure will impose a fine of \$2,000 in addition to other penalties, such as imprisonment, for those persons convicted of crimes involving the production, use, distribution or possession of child pornography involving a government-owned computer. With more than 28,000 members in California, Concerned Women for America (CWA) of California asks that your committee support this bill.

This bill includes an additional fine for not only committing the crime on or via a taxpayer-funded computer or network (such as viewing child pornography on a library computer), but also exacts a fine for using such computers to actually produce, use, control, distribute or advertise obscene material depicting children.

Society must protect innocent children from harm. Pornography generally objectifies those it portrays and has become increasingly violent and degrading. It has tremendous potential for addiction and wreaks havoc in marriages and relationships. Obscene matter depicting children is particularly offensive and deeply damaging to its victims. Every image involves the abuse of a child, and that child is victimized again and again as the image is viewed and distributed in crime after crime. Further, this underground market creates demand for child sex trafficking, among the most heinous of crimes.

Importantly, the fines levied by AB 20 will be used to help child pornography's victims. The funds will be distributed equally to task forces involving high-technology crimes, shelters and counseling services for sex trafficking victims, sexual assault investigator training and multidisciplinary teams to investigate, manage and prosecute child abuse cases.

If you have not already done so, we also ask you and your committee members to sign on as a co-author of AB 20. Your consideration of this request is appreciated, and we, again, urge your "yes" vote on AB 20 when it is heard March 12.

Concerned Women for America is the nation's largest public policy women's organization with more than 500,000 members. If you have any questions regarding CWA or our concerns in this regard, please contact me at (559) 359-8884.

Sincerely,

Patricia Thompson
State Director

cc: Committee members

CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA
OF CALIFORNIA