

Families, Seniors and Children March 16th 2021 @ 12pm
Honorable Chairman Rodney Wakeman and Committee Members:

Representative Douglas Wozniak

Representative Steve Marino

Representative Daire Rendon

Representative Mark Tisdell

Representative Laurie Pohutsky

Representative Darrin Camilleri

Representative Brenda Carter

Representative Abraham Aiyash

THANK YOU KINDLY FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 60

On-line Predation of Vulnerable Adults

House Bills

4159-4160



Internet crimes are often thought of as victimless.

Nothing can be further



Types of Internet Victimization

Enticing

Enticing vulnerable adults for online for sexual acts.

Using

Using the Internet for the production, manufacture, and distribution of pornography targeting vulnerable adults.

Using

Using the Internet to expose vulnerable adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities to pornography and encourage them to exchange pornography.

Enticing and exploiting

Enticing and exploiting people with intellectual or developmental disabilities to engage in sexual behavior for commercial gain and/or personal gratification.

Who *is* an easy target?

“Any type of disability appears to contribute to higher risk of victimization **but intellectual disabilities, communication disorders, and behavioral disorders appear to contribute to very high levels of risk**, and having multiple disabilities (e.g., intellectual disabilities and behavior disorders) result in even higher risk levels.”
(Sullivan & Knutson, 2000)



Why Is Sexual Violence So Common Among People with Intellectual Disabilities?

“People with severe intellectual disabilities may not understand what is happening or have a way to communicate the assault to a trusted person.

Others with a less severe disability may realize they are being assaulted, but don't know that it's illegal and that they have a right to say no.

Even when a report is attempted, they face barriers when making statements to police because they may not be viewed as credible due to having a disability.” (Keilty & Connelly, 2001)



In our case, our daughter told the police officer, "I was scared of him. I thought he would leave me alone if I did it."



*What Are the Effects
of Sexual Violence
(internet or in person)
on Someone with
Intellectual
Disabilities?*

“Sexual violence causes harmful **psychological, physical** and **behavioral** effects . The individual may become pregnant, acquire sexually transmitted diseases, bruises, lacerations and other physical injuries. Psychosomatic symptoms often occur, such as stomachaches, headaches, seizures and problems with sleeping. Common psychological consequences include depression, anxiety, panic attacks, low self-esteem, shame and guilt, irrational fear, and loss of trust. Behavioral difficulties include withdrawal, aggressiveness, self-injurious and sexually inappropriate behavior.” (Sobsey, 1994)



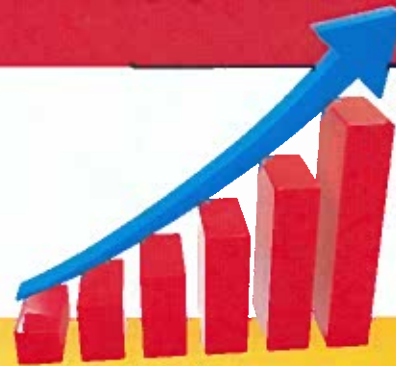
A world without the internet is unimaginable. Having the internet is a core pillar in the information society making vulnerable adults open to solicitation at rate that are only going up. Why? Sheer VOLUME! Check out the number of users.

2021

*4.66 Billion Active
Internet Users
Globally*

*Represents 59.5% of
total global
population*

*92% Use mobile
devices*



What would **YOU** do if this happened to your loved one?

1. Contact Your Representative



HOUSE BILL No. 6347

September 6, 2019 Introduced by Reps. Henry Gal, Kahlé, Fucile and Luffenauer and referred to the Committee on Law and Justice

HOUSE BILL No. 4076

January 23, 2019 Introduced by Reps. Kappas, Brando, and Hines and referred to the Committee on Health, Human Resources, and Social Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 4159

February 04, 2021 Introduced by Reps. Kappas, Gallego, Adams, Brando, and Hines and referred to the Committee on Health, Human Resources, and Social Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 4160

February 04, 2021 Introduced by Reps. Kappas, Gallego, Adams, Brando, and Hines and referred to the Committee on Health, Human Resources, and Social Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 4160



2. Help co-author a bill.

3. Create Awareness



3. Keep Believing

“Studies suggest that 49 percent of people with intellectual disabilities will experience 10 or more sexually abusive incidents.”
(Sobsey & Doe, 1991)

THAT'S NOT OK!



House Bills
4159-60 bring
Michigan up
to date with
other states
and will
protect our
most
vulnerable
adults!



