

EXHIBIT 57  
DATE 3/15/05  
SB 381

Dallas D. Erickson Testimony

SB 381 — Define Child

House Judiciary Committee

March 15, 2005

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am Dallas Erickson and I represent Montana Citizens for Decency through Law.

Our organization drew the "Sexual Abuse of Children" law up and helped to see it pass in 1993 and 1995. It is a good law outlawing the abuse of children through child pornography and sexual exploitation.

The changes that Senator Lynda Moss makes in this bill will make it more enforceable and clear. It also will protect youth under the age of 18.

We read of cases all the time, in Montana and the nation, where molesters attempt to entice a child by electronic communications to engage in sexual conduct with them.

This law also makes it easier for law enforcement officers to conduct sting operations and charge and have prosecuted anyone who attempts to entice an undercover officer or anyone else who is posing as a child and who the potential molester thinks and believes is a child.

These stings are absolutely necessary in helping to keep our communities safer and to protect children on the Internet.

We would ask you to pass this law to strengthen the existing law and to give law enforcement more tools to arrest those who would harm our children for their sexual gratification.

Thank you.

Dallas D. Erickson

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