



**PROSTASIA**  
FOUNDATION

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The Honorable Ron Wyden  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

June 15, 2018

Dear Senator Wyden,

### **Experts oppose the CREEPER Act of 2017 - H. R. 4655**

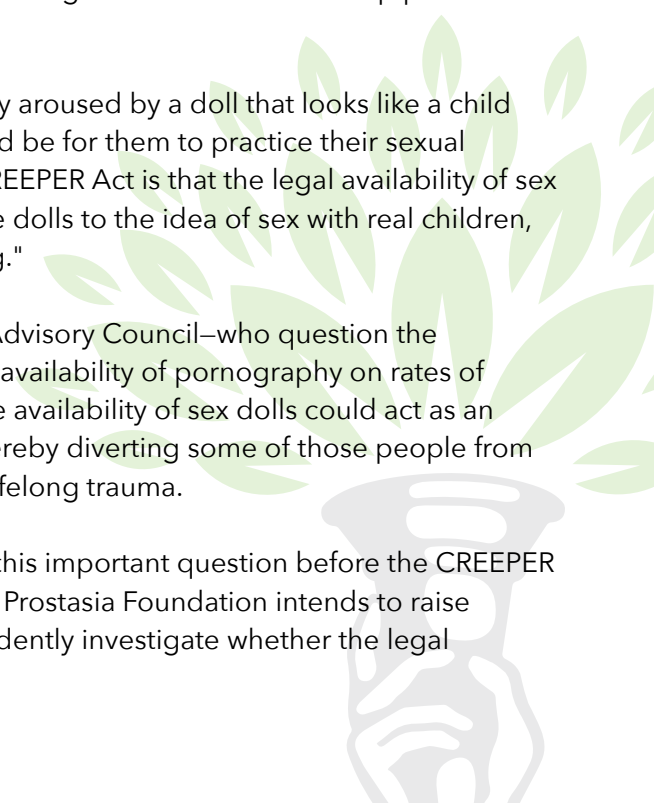
This week the Curbing Realistic Exploitative Electronic Pedophilic Robots Act (CREEPER Act) passed the House of Representatives, and is headed to the Senate. Although well-intentioned, we write to you to express our concern that the Bill as drafted may not achieve its child protection aim—in fact, that it may be harmful.

Prostasia Foundation is a recently-formed child protection organization that brings together mental health professionals, child protection workers, human rights activists, sex industry experts, and child sexual abuse (CSA) survivors. We prioritize dialogue, outreach, and scholarly research to build evidence of effective ways to prevent CSA, and we partner with a broad range of stakeholders to help put these strategies into action.

We understand the idea that a person could become sexually aroused by a doll that looks like a child might be disturbing. But far more disturbing and tragic would be for them to practice their sexual interest on a real child. The supposition that underlies the CREEPER Act is that the legal availability of sex dolls that resemble children would desensitize users of those dolls to the idea of sex with real children, and that they should therefore be treated as a "gateway drug."

However, there are experts—some of them members of our Advisory Council—who question the correctness of this assumption. Research on the effect of the availability of pornography on rates of sexual offending provides some evidence to suggest that the availability of sex dolls could act as an outlet for some of those with a sexual interest in children, thereby diverting some of those people from offending, and saving their would-be victims from possible lifelong trauma.

Congress ought to have the benefit of accurate research on this important question before the CREEPER Act proceeds further. As part of our CSA prevention mission, Prostasia Foundation intends to raise money for research grants, which would be used to independently investigate whether the legal



availability of childlike sex dolls and robots increases or decreases rates of child sexual abuse. Until these facts are known, it would be premature for this legislation to be brought to the floor.

The protection of children from sexual abuse is a goal that unites us all. But it would be tragic if a measure intended to reduce CSA actually had the opposite effect, and resulted in additional children being harmed. Since there are experts who believe that this may be the unintended consequence of the CREEPER Act, Congress has a moral responsibility to listen to them. On the other hand, we would welcome your support in our mission to raise funds to perform the required research on this important topic.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'P' or similar character, enclosed within a circular scribble.

Prostasia Foundation