



Kansas County & District Attorneys Association

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To: *Senate Judiciary Committee*  
From: *Melissa G. Johnson, Assistant Seward County Attorney/KCDAA President*  
Date: *March 5, 2012*

**Re: *Testimony in support of HB 2464***

*Chairman Owens and members of the Judiciary Committee*

*Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on behalf of HB 2464. My name is Melissa Johnson. I am an Assistant Seward County Attorney and currently serve as President of the Kansas County and District Attorneys Association. I am submitting written testimony in support of HB 2464 on behalf of the Kansas County and District Attorneys Association.*

*HB 2464 would bring Kansas law into alignment with federal law commonly known as the Adam Walsh Act. This bill would clarify that images of child pornography may not be copied and provided to defense counsel in criminal cases. At the same time, it safeguards the Defendant's right to have their counsel and any expert witnesses have the material available to them for inspection.*

*HB 2464 is needed because in some jurisdictions, judges are ordering that child pornography be disclosed to defense counsel, who in turn provides the material to their clients. Under federal law, there is no exception allowing a person to possess child pornography for purposes of a criminal defense. HB 2464 would allow Kansas to ensure that child victims are not re-victimized by the continued distribution of illegal images.*

*The KCDAA respectfully requests the Senate Judiciary to support HB 2464.*

*Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony. If I may be of any further assistance regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.*

*Sincerely,*

*Melissa G. Johnson,  
Assistant Seward County Attorney/KCDAA President*