Dear Reporter,

Why are sex stings so popular with law enforcement? According to *The New York Times* August of 2020 article “Convicted of Sex Crimes, but with No Victims” by Michael Winerip, state police captain Roger Wilbur in Washington stated, “Compared to other criminal cases that can take a year or longer, may result in a few years in prison, cost hundreds of man-hours and still only result in a single arrest, this is a significant return on investment. Mathematically, it only costs $2,500 per arrest during this operation! Considering the high level of potential offense, there is a meager investment that pays huge dividends.”

Additionally, law enforcement receives thousands of dollars in federal money for these arrests. If law enforcement were to go after the individuals who are actually online trying to find minors to sexually assault, it would take far more manhours and money to pursue the true child predator out there. What law enforcement is doing in these stings is picking the “low hanging” fruit rather than doing what it would take to find predators who are actively trying to engage with minors.

Enclosed are more details that came out of Tampa’s CBS 10News’ 2015 report on the questionable intentions of these stings.

Sincerely,