

What Does Work?

Use funding to educate **PARENTS** to:

- Be aware of the adults in their child's life.
- Set boundaries/house rules (kids do not sit under blankets with other people, kids are not allowed alone in rooms with only one adult, doors are not closed, house rules must ALWAYS be enforced, etc.).
- Have open communication with their child from an early age about their bodies and protecting their bodies. Maintain this dialog with their children to intervene BEFORE harm occurs.
- Be aware of specific ways that perpetrators target children on the internet and how to prevent this targeting.
- Monitor their children's real-time internet use in order to learn how to abruptly put a stop to any inappropriate activity.
- Help their child recognize "grooming" behaviors.
- Teach their children to reach out to adults if there are any concerns.

Use funding to educate in **SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, WORKPLACES, AND OTHER PUBLIC VENUES** to:

- Stop the cycle of abuse.
- Present programs that teach good touch/bad touch, grooming techniques, and the importance of telling someone.
- Raise awareness of the consequences for would-be perpetrators.
- Fund after-school and summer programs for children whose parents could not otherwise afford it. One study showed that most individuals who were abused as children were abused in the after-school hours or during the summer months when there was limited parental supervision. **(City University of New York, "Preventing Sexual Violence Where It Most Often Occurs: An Investigation of the Situational and Structural Components of Child Sexual Abuse in Residential Settings", Nicole Colombino 2017, page 52)**
- Identify support resources.
- Ultimately restore families.
- Teach and encourage bystander intervention programs.
- Provide counseling to young people with risk factors or tendencies for sexual violence.
- Fund efforts to research and advocate for rational and rehabilitative, evidence-based laws.

Use funding to **increase victims' services.**

Any discussion on the prevention of sex crimes should also include the need for people who have inappropriate feelings about children, but do not act on those feelings, to receive therapy without having law enforcement notified. Europe allows for such therapy without police notification, but in the U.S., the requirement of notifying law enforcement makes it impossible for a non-offending individual to reach out for help. This notification should only occur if the therapist knows the client is acting on his/her inappropriate feelings.

Using research and the many brilliant minds we have in this state and country, these suggestions are just the beginning of what we could do some day to drastically bring down the number of sex crimes.

We need to become more of a preventative nation rather than a reactive one.