

Aggressor legislation gains KS approval

(MSC News)--Legislation pushed by Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt, and Leavenworth County Attorney, Todd Thompson, is approved by the Kansas Legislature.

According to a news release issued by Schmidt's office, the legislation will prevent Kansas judges from lowering prison sentences for adult sex offenders due to a child victim acting as an aggressor in the crime.

The push for passage followed a Leavenworth County Judge last year reducing the sentence for a 67-year-old man convicted of a sex crime because the judge found the 13-year-old victim to have been an aggressor.

In the release, Schmidt commended passage of the legislation, which amends the current state law that allows judges to reduce the length of prison sentences if victims of certain crimes contributed to the criminal activity by acting as an aggressor. The approved change will no longer allow such downward departures in sex crimes cases involving a victim younger than 14.

It also disallows such a departure in all sex trafficking cases regardless of age.

The bill now awaits the signature of Kansas Governor Laura Kelly.

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