

**United States Sentencing Commission**  
**One Columbus Circle, NE Suite 2-500**  
**South Lobby**  
**Washington, DC 20002-8002**  
**Attention: Public Affairs Priorities Comment**

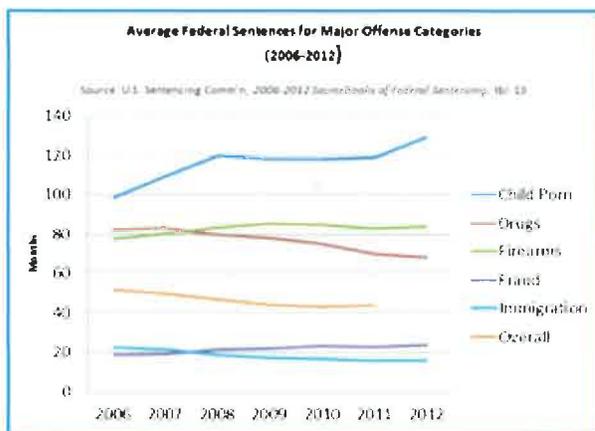
A response to the United States Sentencing Commission to support:

**AMENDMENT # 12**

***CAUTION***click National Campaign for Reform is seeking your support to promote in Congress the Commission's recommendations from its 2012 report on child pornography sentencing, which found that nonproduction sentences are often severe. The existing sentencing guidelines are disproportionate to the severity of the offense committed and serve no other valid penal purpose, as there is no sound research or empirical evidence indicating that first time non contact offenders are likely to re-offend and/or commit more serious crimes.

“The guidelines are founded on false assumptions about the nature of most offenders and metes out extraordinarily high recommended sentences for all but a few. Available scientific data and statistics, as well as practical experience demonstrate that punishment focused on the wrong variables and that the current system regularly scores minor offenders the same or worse than maliciously dangerous offenders with more sophistication.....The fact is every study out so far demonstrates the vast majority of these offenders-particularly those with no history of contact convictions-respond well to supervision, and that only a small portion are likely to recidivate in any meaningful way.”<sup>1</sup>

**COST OF INCARCERATION:**



“After spending \$2 Billion over the last six years, it’s far past time to rein in this madness. The Commission’s recent report on *Federal Child Pornography Offenses* effectively disavowing the sentencing guideline for non-production offenses is an enormous leap in the right direction. We simply cannot afford to continue being fiscally foolish on child pornography sentencing; these data put the magnitude of the madness in sharp relief. Hopefully Congress acts quickly to grant the Commission’s wish to enact legislation providing the Commission with

express authority to amend the current guideline provisions that were promulgated pursuant to specific congressional directives or legislation directly amending the guidelines.”<sup>2</sup>

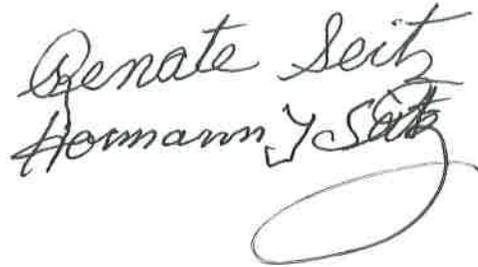
<sup>1</sup> Stabenow, Troy, A Method for Careful Study: A proposal for Reforming the Child pornography Guidelines

<sup>2</sup> AllenBaugh, Mark

"In fiscal year 2008, the Innocent Image National Initiative (IINI) was funded at \$60.9 million or less than one quarter of what the U.S government committed to spend on the incarceration of child pornography possessors convicted in that year alone."<sup>3</sup> Imagine if this amount could be diverted to the IINI, how much safer our children would be from those who are attempting to make a hands on contact!

"Any substantial reduction in the production and marketing of child pornography will require more sophisticated, internationally cooperative efforts such as those employed by IINI and its international task force, aimed at large-scale producers and distributors as well as internet service providers who are aware that their services are being used to transmit images of child sexual abuse but do nothing to stop such commerce."<sup>4</sup>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Renate Seitz-Hormann". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a large, stylized flourish at the bottom.

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<sup>3</sup> U.S Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. "FY2011 Authorization and Budget Request to Congress;

<sup>4</sup> *Justice Perverted: Sex Offense, Law, Psychology, and Public Policy*, Charles P. Ewing, Law Professor and psychologist from the State University of New York at Buffalo.pg.173