

So Lets Talk About SB-145

and how we still haven't learned to research rather than to take "information" at face value.....

So just like most of you, I was shocked when I saw that SB-145 had passed, now making it legal to have sex with a minor. As the mother of 4 children ages 6 to 19, I was disappointed, fearful and angry at our leaders! How could they allow this to happen? I wanted to bawl up in a corner and cry. I was stuck, lost, floating away in thoughts about the pandemic, fires, hurricanes, police brutality and protests and now we have people in office actively trying to normalize sex with children. I was either going to my bed or going into action.

Well if I've learned anything on this journey of advocacy, it would be to never take what you have heard as fact; do your own research. I was just about to throw my own lesson out the window based on the very glaring facts of a meme. A meme? Yes, a damn MEME!

The meme read, "California in a 6-2 vote passed SB-145 Pedophile bill! It states no felony for having sex with a minor"!

I'm glad that I remembered rather quickly how often we have been lied to when it comes to politics. I also thought of my own husband being a part of this huge population of people that is used politically to create public fear and further the agenda of legal slavery by means of incarceration. This fiction that is floating around the internet is no different. And it was in fact just that, *fiction*. "It states no felony for having sex with a minor" was such an extreme deviation from truth that it was downright insulting, it was as if we were all too dumb to just go read the bill and see for ourselves that language just did not exist.

Now let's talk about the actual law that this bill amended –The law states that consensual sex between a 14 to 17 year old with someone within 10 years, while illegal, does not mandate an automatic requirement to register as a sex offender for life. When it is consensual and within 10 years it is at the judge's discretion. Now let me just say that although I don't agree with what I see as an over tolerance, with that 10-year allowance in age, I do largely agree with this law. There is nothing at all morally wrong, in my opinion, with an 18-year-old dating a 16 year-old and should not be something that creates jail time for anyone. That's why it's at the discretion of the judge. The problem with the law was that it only included vaginal sex. Anal, oral and digital sex were not included in the "consensual sex crimes" allowed to be decided on and sentenced by a judge, quite the contrary actually with an automatic felonious sex charge and the requirement to register as a sex offender for a lifetime. Well WHY? Sex is sex! The fact that this law gives allowances when it's straight vaginal sex but not for other acts of sex made me take a long pause and ask myself "why"? There should never have been a distinction on what kind of sex. The law should be the same across the board. So why would they do this?? Well, this is a little thing called *minority oppression* and this is just what it looks like. "All men are created equal" has always been and still is as garbage for the queer community as it has been since the 1860's for the black community.

The current laws on the book's, hands down, allow for the targeting of anyone not straight. The law never says a single word about gay or straight, but the law disproportionately effects the queer community as a whole. I don't know if anyone is paying attention but the majority of gays, lesbians

and trans are not engaging in penile/vaginal sex. So as the law was, a 19-year-old man can fall in love and have a relationship with a 17 year old *young man* and he will automatically be added to the sex registry if caught. As the law was, a 19 year old man can fall in love and have a relationship with a 17 year old *young woman*, get caught – well, honestly no one would bat an eye, but let's pretend for a moment that they are "caught". At that point it would be up to a judge whether the young man would need to register or not. I just don't see most judges handing down any type of sentence for that. If your gay though, well totally different story. A judge won't even have to decide, it's an automatic felonious sex crime charge and registry for life.

So let's break it down and clarify what this bill is NOT

SB-145 does **NOT** legalize any kind of sex with a minor

SB-145 does **NOT** do away with the sex registry

SB-145 does **NOT** allow anyone to own or exchange pornographic images of minors.

Nowhere in this bill does it say anything about pedophilia or child pornography being legalized, the sex registry going away, or child molesters and rapists no longer being charged with felonies. The people that opposed this bill, seem by and large to be either political opponents of the senator that wrote the bill or honestly, just haven't researched the bill further than a meme on social media or a quick mention from a friend of a friend.

I know we are living in a crazy time, but I am very ashamed of my staunch and immediate response of anger, sadness, defeat and overall willingness to just believe the lies I was hearing. We have information, literally at our fingertips yet most of us just chose to believe a meme and look no further. I get it though and so do they. "They" being those that are purposefully misleading people about this bill and is doing so in quite an extreme way. Why it's not illegal to mislead voters like this is beyond me.

Bottom line – the law is antiquated and homophobic and I would love to know who started the fear mongering and propaganda of using the love of our children and the concern over their very innocents to scare our vote. Emotion was used as manipulation; nothing evokes emotion in most humans like that which is induced by our offspring. For someone to do this for political reasons is so very disheartening. Whoever you are, shame on you!

And to everyone else, this isn't an LGBTQ problem, this is a human problem. I don't know about you, but I won't rest until we are ALL treated the same.

I'm not in any way attempting to change anyone's mind on how they feel about this bill. I just want people to be properly informed. If you don't support the bill, I have no qualms about it, I just want everyone who hates it to hate it for the right reasons and not based on complete untruths.