

# State Senator Anthony Kern Extremism Spotlight

**Kern claimed access to abortion leads to a rise in human trafficking.** During a legislative committee hearing about human trafficking, Kern claimed protecting children from human trafficking stems from the 'abortion issue' and called to correct it through Christian Nationalism. Kern claimed, "We have got to protect our children. And I do believe that this does stem from the abortion issue. When states in this nation are now killing babies up to now nine months. Go on youtube folks and go watch. Watch a little baby in the womb nine months pushing back on the needle, why? Because, that baby wants to live. Till we get the life issue right, we're going to have this. And the only way we are going to get the life issue right is we are going to have to turn our nation back to Jesus Christ." [Copper Courier, [2/14/2024](#)]

**Kern claimed that God, not guns, were responsible for school shootings.** In videos released by American Bridge, as American Journal News reports, Kern "told a tea party gathering last week that he does not want to see any "safe schools" legislation, because the absence of God in the "social construct" is the reason for school shootings. And, he warned, if the state adopts "red flag" laws, people would simply be able to disarm their political and personal rivals." He claimed taking God out of the social construct leads to the degradation of society and mental health issues that cause gun violence. [A] News, [12/19/2019](#)]

**Kern sponsored legislation to criminalize drag shows, claiming he wants to protect children from "perversion" and "grooming."** According to the Arizona Republic, "Senate Bill 1028, places drag shows that entertain audiences in a 'sexually explicit manner' under the definition of adult cabaret performances, which have been historically limited to strip shows. Under the bill's provisions, such shows would be banned from being held on public property or anywhere a minor could possibly view them. The first violation of the bill's rules would result in a class 1 misdemeanor for the performer or business hosting them, which could lead to a \$2,500 fine and up to 6 months in jail. A second violation is punished with a class 6 felony, which comes with a fine of up to \$150,000 and a prison sentence as long as two years." While defending his bills, Kern said, "I will do everything I can as a Senator in this chamber to protect Arizona children from perversion (and) grooming. I do not believe all drag performers are pedophiles and I do not believe all drag performers are targeting children, but I do think that there... are some bad apples in each group." Governor Hobbs vetoed SB 1028. [[AZ SB 1028](#), vetoed, 6/16/2023; AZ Republic, [2/2/2023](#)]