

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

Testimony in Support of HR 180 Declaring that pornography is a public health hazard

September 17, 2019

My name is Jim Tobin. I am an associate director with the Catholic Conference of Ohio. The Catholic Conference of Ohio encourages your support for HR 180. We agree, as stated in this resolution, that the pornography epidemic must be addressed by encouraging education, prevention, research, and policy changes at the community and societal level to confront the proliferation of pornography on the Internet and human trafficking.

In 2015, the bishops of the United States issued a statement entitled "[*Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*](#)." It is intended to offer hope and healing to those who have been harmed by pornography and raise awareness of its pervasiveness and harms.

In Catholic teaching, sexual love is a gift meant for marriage alone. Pornography consists in removing real or simulated sexual acts from the intimacy of the partners, in order to display them deliberately to third parties. ([*Catechism of the Catholic Church*](#) [CCC], no. 2354).

The Conference thanks Representative Powell and the eighteen co-sponsors for presenting this resolution. We are grateful to all who are working to acknowledge the harmful nature of pornography and build a culture where chastity and authentic love are esteemed and supported.

Thank you for this opportunity.