Dear Chairman Scott Lipps, Vice Chairman Don Manning, Ranking Member Janine Boyd and Members of the House Health Committee:

Pornography has had a hugely negative impact on my life and those close to me. I was first exposed to pornography by a family member when I was nine years old. At that age I was unable to fully comprehend what I was seeing, however, I knew two things; 1) what I was seeing was wrong, but 2) I needed to see more.

In the beginning the searches were simple since as a child it was new and did not take much to excite me. Unfortunately, as time progressed and I saw more, the “normal stuff” didn’t do it for me anymore. Progressively the searches became darker and darker till I was looking for things that I felt if anyone found out they would no longer look at me the same. It took till I was twenty-one to finally admit I needed help, and twenty-three before I actually found help informed on the topic. I have been working to break this addiction heavily for the last eighteen months and still struggle because of the depths that pornography has gripped me, especially in my developing years. I was uninformed on how strong of an impact pornography has on a young developing mind, and the innocence that was stolen from me with each image and video I viewed.

Many times during my addiction, specifically after viewing darker material, I would lash out and hurt those I cared about because of the pain and shame I held inside. I needed help and I didn’t know where or how to get it. The age that children are being exposed to pornography has continued to decrease, and my story is not unique. The lack of understanding on this topic will continue to destroy the minds of children.

I urge you to support HR 180, and I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Lucas King