



**Testimony of Brooke E. Pollard**

**Health Committee: House of Representatives**

**House Resolution 180: Declaring Pornography a Public Health Crisis**

**September 17<sup>th</sup> 2019**

To Chairmen Derek Merrin, Vice Chairmen Don Manning, Ranking Member Janine Boyd, and Members of the House Health Committee thank you so much for allowing us to speak today on this important matter.

My co-worker Bethany Jackson and I work at Gracehaven, a therapeutic group home for juvenile victims of human trafficking. We have seen and heard indescribable things that have happened to our youth, and so many of the stories have been tied to porn and the addiction that lies behind it.

Porn has impacted our youth in a variety of ways, including, but not limited to: being videotaped while raped, videos and nude pictures going viral on the internet, men purchasing sex from them to perform brutal acts seen in pornographic videos, and more.

Based on information acquired through years of serving our youth, we believe without a doubt, pornography has become a public health crisis. Research has shown what constant consumption of porn can do to the brain. It is proven that porn can overpower the brain's natural ability to make clear and healthy decisions, which leads to actual sex being less fulfilling. Porn addicted men, then must have to be more violent and abusive to gain the fulfillment of sex that they're seeing in videos.

For us personally, porn has affected our lives by watching it destroy the girls we work with. We urge you to keep our kids safe from porn addicted predators. One client suffered hours of rape, while the man watched porn, trying to seek his fulfillment. This is only one of the many traumatic incidents she shared when asked "How has porn played a role in your trauma?" These incidents have altered her life, her view of men, sex, her body, her self-esteem, and her idea of "worth." She has grown up with the mindset that her worth was only found in what her body could do for men. When children are getting raped at five years old, because men can no longer seek pleasure in viewing child porn, but now having to act it out, we have a crisis. These young girls have had to go through extraordinary amounts of therapy to gain a healthy understanding of what relationships should look like, and how adults are supposed to protect them, not hurt them. These girls deserve to have their stories told, so the public can understand the pain and trauma, rampant porn addiction has had on their lives; and the years of therapy they need to consistently and actively participate in, to reverse the damages caused by pornography. It is because of these young ladies, that we urge you to support HR 180, and I'm happy to answer any questions. Thank You.