

September 16, 2019

The following is the testimony of John Schmoll of National Decency Coalition to present on 9/17/19 during House Health Committee hearing regarding House Resolution 180

Good morning Mr. Chairman Derek Merrin, Vice-Chairman Don Manning, Ranking Member Janine Boyd, and Members of the House Health Committee. My name is John Schmoll and I have the honor of serving the National Decency Coalition as the State Director for Ohio.

The National Decency Coalition is an organization that is very concerned with the instantaneous access to pornography today by children in the U.S. and how that affects children. We lead in various states on the issue of pornography as creating a public health crisis and we offer various solutions. We commend Representative Powell and the 18 co-sponsors for presenting this house resolution. Currently, similar resolutions have been introduced and passed in 13 states.

Today in America, a child as generally has immediate access to pornography unless the parent has done an extensive job installing various kinds of parental controls on all the devices that the child has access to. Even when parents have installed such controls, a child can still have access to pornography through peer-to-peer exposure, public wi-fi, some public libraries and many other ways. Among a survey that was conducted in six schools in the United States, Covenant Eyes found that 21.3% of young men said they view pornographic material every day or almost every day. Another survey found that of 97% of boys who had viewed pornography, 23% said they tried

to stop watching it but could not. According to Clay Olsen, Co-Founder and CEO of Fight the New Drug: “This material is more aggressive, more harmful, more violent, more degrading and damaging than any other time in the history of the world. And this generation growing up is dealing with it to an intensity and scale that no other generation in the history of the world has ever had to.” CyberPsychology & Behavior Magazine states that 93% of boys and 62% of girls have seen Internet pornography during adolescence.

There needs to be a solution to this problem. Many of the 13 states that have passed similar resolution have subsequently enacted various solutions, whether that be educational policies, notifying Internet customers of available parental controls, or many others. This resolution is a beginning step, and with the hopeful passage, we plan to work with Representative Powell and other members of the Ohio Legislature on future solutions. Thank you for your time and I urge you to support HR 180. I’d be glad to take questions now or following the hearing. Thank you.