

Health Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S High St # 12
Columbus, OH 43215

September 17, 2019

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Health Committee, and Members of the House of Representatives:

Nearly every adversarial component that daily plagues our society can be traced back to one specific platform: the family unit. Violence, sexual misconduct, embezzlement, and a spectrum of immoralities are either planted or disavowed in the intimate space of the American home.

One specific parasite of an American custom is the normalization, participation, and celebration of pornography. In a culture of “me too,” in a culture where women are feeling liberated to expose the sexual wrong-doings of their perpetrators, in a culture that enthusiastically claims to celebrate the humanity of its citizens, it is in that same culture that we idolize a leading form of human objectification. The irony is fascinating.

Pornography, while its presence has been upheld by the Federal Judiciary, has and continues to dehumanize American citizens, particularly women, and only fuels the fire of reckless sexual behavior which stems from an apathetic approach to human value and human dignity. We are routinely uncovering stories that show a lack of respect and concern for the well-being of our fellow citizens by means of sexual misconduct and objectification. Pornography serves as a cornerstone for these dishonorable habits of dehumanization.

While many stories of sexual misbehavior and objectification have been and continue to be uncovered, the fierce reality is that the vast majority of stories will not be uncovered. That is, not in a publication. However, I will argue that the stories of how pornography has impacted lives is seen in the tears of the spouse who found pornographic material on their spouse's computer. The stories are exposed in the tears of the children who see their parents fighting after the material was discovered. The stories are exposed in the adverse conduct of the children who grew up in a divided home due to pornography.

It is for these reasons that I support HR 180: To declare that pornography is a public health hazard with statewide and national public health impacts leading to a broad spectrum of individual and societal harms.

John Wesley Reid